

## **DEDICATION**

**This Community Needs Assessment is dedicated to the future users of the Mendota Neighborhood Library and the residents of the Mendota Library Service Area.**

## **Fresno County Library**

### **Mendota Neighborhood Library Needs Assessment**

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## **2. Overall Executive Summary**

### **Mendota Neighborhood Library Needs Assessment**

The Mendota Neighborhood Library has provided library services to residents since 1919. The Mendota library has occupied a number of rented substandard facilities throughout its history and has been at the current location since 1956. The current 960 square foot building is constructed of masonry material with minimal reinforcement and insulation. There are numerous cracks in the walls, especially around openings, and signs of water leakage through the walls and edges of the roof. The building does not meet ADA accessibility or California Title 24 energy standards.

The Fresno County Library involved a broad range of stakeholders in the community needs assessment process. Stakeholder involvement included government and school district officials and staff, civic leaders and community agencies. Public participation efforts included focus group, public forums, meetings and presentations, community outreach, formal user surveys, customer use pattern mapping and informal comments and interaction with residents. Local school district officials, students, staff and parents provided input through meetings, oral and written comments and interaction with library staff.

The Mendota Library service area population of 9,712 is projected to grow to 20,000 by the year 2020. Data reported in Census 2000 shows the Hispanic or Latino population is more than 93% of the total service area population. The economy in Mendota, historically and today, is primarily based on agriculture. More than 46% of the service area population is employed in the agricultural industry compared to the state and national average of 1.9%. The per capita income for Mendota is \$8,512 compared to the state pre capita of \$22,711 and U.S. income per capita of \$21,587. Unemployment of 40% is extremely high in Mendota. This compares to the state average of 4.9% and national unemployment of 4.0%. Adult literacy at level 1 in Fresno County is 29% compared to 24% statewide. Poor literacy skills among adults in Mendota is indicated by educational attainment (only 10.4% completed high school) and the high percentage of “linguistically isolated” households (30%).

Space for seating, collections, technology, meetings, programming and study areas is insufficient. Shelves are overfull; contents are often rotated, weeded and stored in the cramped back room to provide space for current and high demand materials. High demand collections such as audiovisual formats and, Spanish-Language materials are very limited.

Access to public computers is limited because of space, and inadequate electrical and data capabilities in the library. However, use of the four public computers is extremely high. In 2002 there were 5,963 computer use sessions recorded at the Mendota Library. To ensure equal access, patrons are limited to 30-minute sessions in the afternoons and on weekends when demand is high.

Results of the community needs assessment identified basic literacy, computer and Internet access, job and career resources, materials and programs to support the formal education and recreational needs of students, more resources and services for Spanish speakers and seniors, and meeting and gathering spaces as valued and important services.

### **Description of K-12 population**

The Mendota Unified School District serves the City of Mendota and vicinity. The current enrollment of 2,083 students is distributed among two elementary schools, one junior high school, one high school, one continuation high school, and a community day school. The student population is projected to reach 2,819 the year 2020 representing a 35% growth rate. The K-12 student population reflects the overall population of the Mendota Library Service Area.

Student demographics include, 98% Hispanic, more than 89% low income, 91% of students are eligible for subsidized school meals, 74% English learners, 22% immigrant, and 43% migrant. The average educational attainment of adults is less than 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Only 10.4% of Mendota adults earned a high school diploma. The average District API test score of 568 demonstrates overall 20% gain from 2000-2002 but is far below the state target score of 800. Only 37% of Mendota Unified Students scored above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the 2002 Stanford 9 reading test and 19% scored above the 50<sup>th</sup> range on the math test. Fifty (50) percentile is the median range. The 2000-2001 drop out rate in Mendota Unified School District was 4.7%, almost double the state average of 2.8% for the same period.

Service needs for Mendota students, as with the entire community revolve around space, collections, and services. Library use by students comprise at least 60% of total use as demonstrated by such indicators as computer use, circulation, in-house use, and program data. There are not enough computers available to meet the needs of students. There are only 4 public access computers available. During 2002, Mendota recorded 5,963 computer use sessions, representing 1,491 sessions per computer. Because of the high demand for public access computers, students are limited to 30-minute sessions during peak hours.

Seating and study space is very limited in small library space (960 square feet). There are three tables and only 16 seats in the entire library (includes seating at computer workstations). There are no meeting or conference spaces available for tutoring or study groups and no acoustical separation between areas in this small library for quiet study.

The children's and young adult collections are woefully inadequate in size and depth to support homework and formal education needs of students. The small interior space of the library limits substantial expansion of all library collections. The library is only able to offer limited programming, including summer reading activities for children and young adults and class visits upon request due to space constraints. There are very few resources in the Mendota community that support recreational, educational and life long learning for students and their families. Library resources and programming are needed to enhance the academic and overall development of K-12 students, and the quality of life in the community.

The collaborative joint venture activities with the school district will extend formal learning beyond the school campus and create additional opportunities for learning enrichment. Joint venture services that respond to student needs include:

- Study and tutoring areas in the library
- Computers equipped with Internet and productivity software
- Internet links to appropriate age and grade level homework sites
- Subscription databases to facilitate research
- Classes in computer and Information literacy
- Tutors in reading, math and literacy (both paid by the school district and volunteers)
- Homework collection, including K-12 textbooks
- Tutors for homework and study (both paid by the school district and volunteers)
- College and career collection and workshops
- Career exploration opportunities for students
- Remote access to school and library databases
- Improved communication between library and school staff to better serve students
- Remote access to school and library databases
- School and library staff in-service training
- Enrichment and life long learning opportunities
  - Fine Arts enrichment program offered by the school district at the library
  - Outreach to kindergarten, teen and adult students
  - Parent education classes

### **3 a. Executive Summary Needs Assessment Methodology**

Fresno County Library administrators and staff recognize the value of community needs assessment; staff support and participate in assessment as part of their on-going assignments. Relevant data and user feedback is routinely collected through both formal and informal means, analyzed and used to set priorities, allocate resources and make decisions. Library staff gathered input from Mendota residents and service providers through a variety of methods to gain perspective on the range of needs to be met by a new library facility. The most effective methods involved hands-on, direct contact with community residents and service providers through one-on-one or small group interaction.

#### Library/Community Involvement

The Fresno County Library has an extensive history of enabling the Mendota community to identify service needs and influence the library's response to those needs. Since 1990 local government officials, school district officials, key community leaders, and residents have met with library staff to discuss service needs and develop plans to relocate the Mendota Neighborhood Library. Since the passage of Measure B, a sales tax to fund library services, library staff and Mendota residents have worked collaboratively to define needs that will be incorporated in the plan of service and design of a new library facility.

#### School District Involvement

The Mendota Unified School District and County Library have a history of successful joint ventures dating to the late 1980s. A series of meetings, discussions, and contacts with school administrators, board of trustees, teachers, support staff, students and parents led to a Joint Venture Agreement between the Fresno County Library and Mendota Unified School District, which will compliment and enhance each party's service delivery to students and their families.

#### Government Agencies and Community Organizations Involvement

County library administrators and staff met with City of Mendota officials, and County Public Works Division staff to discuss needs of the community and to identify the most visible and accessible site for a new library facility. In addition, Caltrans staff provided information on the proposed realignment of Highway 180 that currently divides Mendota. Through monthly meetings of the Mendota Community Partners, a coalition of agencies and organizations that provide a variety of services to community residents, library staff gathered recommendations and input from community agencies about their service needs and those of their clients.

#### Public Meetings

The county library hosted a series of public meetings and forums to gather input from Mendota residents on service needs and preliminary architectural plans for a new library. Public meetings also provided a venue to inform residents about the library's long-range facilities plan and gather comments on existing and future services.

#### Presentations

County library staff presented information about the library construction project and proposed architectural plans during two city council presentations. Officials from many government agencies, and more than 50 community residents, were present at the January 2003 meeting. Response to the proposed new library and services was overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic.

### Community Outreach

County library staff participated in a major community event during August 2002 to promote library literacy services and to gather input from residents about library service needs and building design. In addition, input was gathered from teachers and students during scheduled outreach visits to preschools and class visits to the library.

### Interviews with Key Leaders

The following key leaders were interviewed: Robert Silva, Alfonso Sierras, and John Flores, Mendota City Council; Gilbert Rosette, Superintendent, Mendota Unified School District; Nancy Daniels, Westside Youth Center; Juan Montes, Workforce Connection; Ed Petry, Senior Center; and William Smith, Lions Club. Community leaders provided their views on the needs of the community and how the library could partner with other agencies to address education, employment, recreation, cultural awareness, and other quality of life concerns of Mendota residents.

### Comments and Suggestions

Residents of Mendota were encouraged to express their needs and concerns about library services through oral or written comments and suggestions. Residents were also encouraged to submit electronic comments through a link on the library's web page, [www.fresnolibrary.org](http://www.fresnolibrary.org). This method was the most effective in reaching non-traditional library users, children and young parents. The majority of adult residents are reluctant to participate in meetings or formal surveys due to language, cultural or other social barriers.

### Library Surveys

A customer satisfaction survey was conducted by the Center of Applied Research in Library and Information Science, State University of New York at Buffalo in March 1998, and Godbe Research and Analysis conducted a survey of voters and residents in April 1998. The customer surveys were used to assess library users' satisfaction with Fresno County Library services and provided an opportunity for community residents to comment on their local library service needs.

### Mapping Patron Use Patterns

Fresno County Library commissioned the GeoLib Program, Florida State University, to conduct a study to determine library service areas and population projections. 2001 patron registrations were digitally mapped to determine the Mendota Library Service Area, which contains the actual and potential library users for specific resources and services.

### 3 b. Needs Assessment Methodology

Organizational responsibilities for continuous needs assessment is addressed explicitly through long range strategic planning. In 1990 the Fresno County Board of Supervisors adopted *Capital Facilities Assessment, Fresno County Library, Meeting Needs for the Fresno County Residents: 1990-2005*. This document identified Phase I and Phase II facilities development projects. The Mendota Library was targeted as a Phase I project for new library construction due to the unacceptable condition of the existing building and its inadequate size relative to the needs of the service area population. Between 1990 and 1994 the library held a series of meetings with key leaders, city government officials, school district officials, representatives of community organizations and citizens at large to conduct a community needs assessment. In 1990 an initial focus group comprised of local community leaders met with library staff to discuss service needs and explore options for relocation of the library. The focus group included Robert Silva, former Mayor Pro Tem; Freddie Valdez, former member Mendota Unified School District Board of Trustees; Robert Macias, former City of Mendota Building Inspector; and Nancy Daniels, Westside Youth. Based on the results of these early discussions, Fresno County Library filed a "Notice of Intent to Apply for Funds from the California Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 1988" on behalf of the Mendota Library. However, an application was not submitted due to lack of matching funds for capital projects.

From 1994 to 1998 library staff hosted eight community meetings to gather input from residents regarding service needs, and to continue the planning process for a new library facility. Stakeholders in attendance represented a broad spectrum of user groups in the community including government, children and teens, immigrants, social service agencies, and senior citizens. A building committee was formed and fundamental service needs were identified, including extended and convenient hours of library service, more Spanish-language materials, a larger library with more books and video recordings, study areas and meeting space, and activities for children and families. Though the early needs assessment process was fruitful, little action was taken due to lack of revenue for library expansion.

In 1998 voters in Fresno County passed a sales tax measure (Measure B), which provided revenue for capital development and expansion of library services. Prior to the passage of Measure B, the library conducted two community surveys. A Customer Satisfaction Survey was conducted by the Urban Libraries Council and the Center for Applied Research in Library and Information Science, State University of New York at Buffalo. The survey was completed at each library to determine the extent to which the library met customers' needs or requirements for library service. Godbe Research and Analysis was contracted to conduct a survey of voters and residents to measure support for a sales tax to fund library services, and identify community needs. Residents in the Mendota library service area participated in both surveys.

Since the passage of Measure B, library staff led by John Kallenberg, County Librarian, rededicated their efforts to involve the Mendota community in defining service needs and planning for a new library facility. Methods of involvement include meetings with government officials and school district officials; input from community organizations; focus group brainstorming sessions; public meetings; presentations; community outreach; interviews with key leaders; comments in oral, print and electronic formats; and formal mapping of patron use patterns. Needs and services consistently expressed throughout the needs assessment process include a larger modern facility, more books and materials for all ages, meeting and study spaces, Spanish language materials, computers with Internet access and current electronic resources, tutors to help students and adult learners, materials to help residents develop reading and English skills, and programs for children and families.

## K-12 Public School Involvement

### **Mendota Unified School District 2002 Board of Trustees:**

Rosemary Ramirez, President  
Robert Silva, Vice President  
Isabel Maldonado, Clerk

Sergio Valdez, Member  
Israel Porras, Member  
Richard Knight, Member  
Freddie Valdez, Member

### **Mendota Unified School District Administration:**

Gilbert Rossette, Superintendent  
Michael Mueller, Director of State & Federal Programs

The Mendota Unified School District serves the city of Mendota and vicinity. The current enrollment of 2,083 is distributed among two elementary schools, one junior high school, one high school, one continuation high school, and a community day school. In addition, the District operates a state funded preschool and federally funded Migrant Head Start program.

Mendota Unified School District trustees and administrators worked collaboratively with the library and county public works department to select and secure a site for the new Mendota Library. District officials wanted the library to be easily accessible to children who walk or ride their bicycle to school. The site of the new library is adjacent to the high school and near the junior high and elementary schools. Proximity to the schools is excellent for ease of access and joint venture activities. The District also donated a parcel of land adjacent to the high school for the new library. The parcel is valued at more than \$47,000.

Library staff met with District Superintendent Gilbert Rossette and District Director of State and Federal Programs Michael Mueller to identify needs and begin the planning process for joint venture services. Teachers and staff were informed of the project and provided their feedback through Mr. Mueller, school district liaison for the library project. In addition, district students and staff provided valuable input through informal comments and interaction with staff at the Mendota library. District parents were involved in planning for the new library by offering their input during community meetings and presentations, and through comments and suggestions.

The District provides numerous support programs to its students, the majority of whom are from low-income households. The District's priority is to invest in each student as a whole person by extending the learning environment beyond the school campus. The joint venture services developed with the district respond to the expressed needs of students and families, school administrator, teachers and staff. Joint venture services realized through the needs assessment include homework resources and tutoring, study areas, access to computer technology and information literacy training, college and career resources, and services for children, young adults and families that promote reading and life long learning.



### **3 c. Methods used to elicit community input**

The Fresno County Library has traditionally supported both formal and informal methods of outreach to promote services and gather input on community needs. Library staff involved many segments of the Mendota community by utilizing a variety of methods to identify the important and valued service needs of its residents. Needs assessment methods include meetings with government agencies, school district staff and community organizations, public forums, focus group brain storming sessions, presentations, community outreach, interviews with key leaders, informal comments and suggestions, and formal surveys.

#### Government Agencies:

Library staff held several meetings with the Mendota City Manager to gather input on zoning, proposed general plan development and suggestions for placement of the library. There is a strong desire by city leadership to attract new business and development to the area that would improve the quality of life for Mendota residents. City officials expressed a critical need for greater access to educational, cultural, employment and social services for Mendota residents.

#### School Agencies

The Mendota Library serves the Mendota Unified School District located within the City of Mendota. The current enrollment of 2,083 is distributed among two elementary schools, one junior high school, one high school, one continuation high school, and a community day school. In addition, the district operates a state funded preschool and federally funded Migrant Head Start program. The library serves two additional preschools in the community which, are funded through state and federal sources. The Mendota Library also serves adult students who attend a local community college. There are no private schools in the Mendota Library Service Area. Library staff held several meetings with Mendota Unified School District administrators, and board of trustees to identify a site for the new library and the needs of students, staff and families that will be incorporated in the new facility. In addition, library staff gathered input from teachers, staff, students and parents through the district liaison for the library project; meetings; presentations; comments; and interaction with library staff.

#### Community Organizations & Agencies

The Fresno County Library is an active member of the Mendota Community Partners, a coalition of agencies that provides a variety of services to Mendota residents. The organization was formed by the Mendota City Manager in January 2002, and endorsed by the mayor. A representative list of agency partners includes Fresno County Human Services System, I-5 Business Development Corridor, Mendota Chamber of Commerce, Mendota Lions Club, Mendota Senior Citizens, Westside Youth, Westside Crisis Center, and Workforce Connection. The Mendota Community Partners provide a forum for partnerships between community residents and service agencies that will facilitate effective responses to health, education, employment, safety, recreation and other quality of life needs of residents. Library staff attended monthly meetings during 2002 and gathered input from agency partners on service needs of their organizations and clients. The needs expressed by agencies and organizations include designated spaces for meetings and other activities, career and college resources and workshops, access to computers, literacy resources and tutoring, general information and referral to human services, programs and resources for children and families, and distribution of information regarding services and events.

## Public Meetings

County Library staff hosted several public meetings in Mendota and adjacent communities to provide residents with a forum to express their service needs. In July 2002 library staff in conjunction with project architects Robert Thornton of Teter and Associates and Paul Halajian of the Taylor Group presented residents with three possible design layouts and discussed possible architectural themes for the building.

Library staff discussed the enhanced services and collections that will be provided in the new library. Residents voiced excitement about a building 12 times larger than the current library and provided a “wish list” of their vision for the new facility. Among the elements residents requested were outdoor spaces for people to socialize with friends and family and a water element of some kind. There are very few places in the community where residents can interact socially or attend cultural and educational activities. Residents also prefer exterior elements that reflect the history and culture of Mendota, and its vision for the future. These public comments were incorporated into the preliminary architectural design of the building. A public meeting was held in November of 2002 to acquaint residents of western Fresno County with the library's long range facilities strategic plan and gather comments on library services and facilities. Mendota residents emphasized the need for a new library with more materials and services for children and youth, and Spanish speaking residents.



## Focus Group

In March of 2001, county library staff led by John Kallenberg, County Librarian, invited key community leaders to serve on a building committee to help define service needs and develop conceptual elements for a new library facility in Mendota. Several focus group members served on the original planning committee in the early 1990s. The first committee meeting was held on March 26, 2001 with community stakeholders representing, city government, children and youth, families, the unemployed, school agencies, and senior citizens in attendance. The agenda included a needs assessment discussion and response session in which committee members were asked for input on the following questions:

- What can the library do to help residents in their daily lives?
- What services should the library provide to children, teens, adults, seniors, and others?
- What kind of materials should the library provide?
- Where should the library be located?
- What elements should be included in the building design to support desired services?

Three subsequent planning meetings were held from April through July 2001. Focus group respondents provided the following input:

- There is a great need for tutors to help adults and children improve their reading and English language skills.
- Spanish-speaking tutors are needed. More than 30% of residents do not speak English.
- Improved skills in reading and math will help children achieve in school, and adults find better jobs.
- More resources are needed on careers, job training and employment opportunities to help people find jobs in areas other than agriculture.
- The library should work with other agencies in the community to provide job training, employment, health and other information.
- Students need quiet, inviting place to study. Many students have no study space at home.
- A place to meet in small or large groups is needed. City hall has the largest meeting room in town, which is not always available for community use.
- People in Mendota need access to current computer technology. Most families cannot afford a computer for the home. School computers are only available to students during school hours.
- Residents need more books on all subjects, especially in Spanish.
- More ESL materials for all ages.
- Mendota residents feel isolated in many ways. There is a need for local educational, cultural and recreational opportunities.

### Presentations

County library staff provided government officials and residents with information about the library project during two Mendota City Council meetings. In September 2002, the librarian supervisor for west county neighborhood libraries provided a status update on the new library project. Library staff and project architects presented information to residents about the proposed new library during the January 2, 2003 Mendota City Council meeting. Government officials in attendance included Mayor Joseph Riofrio; Mendota city council members and executive staff; Supervisor Phil Larson, Fresno County Board of Supervisors, District 1; Rafael Hernandez Trujillo, Field Representative, Office of Assembly Member Sarah Reyes; Michael Mueller, Director of State and Federal Programs, Mendota Unified School District; and city managers from adjacent communities. More than 50 community residents, including several parents with school children, and senior citizens attended the meeting. Details about the new library site, proposed design of the facility, and services were presented. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Supervisor Larson enthusiastically endorsed the project and commended city officials on their efforts to bring a new library with expanded services closer to fruition for the citizens of Mendota. Some of the needs expressed by city officials and residents include more books and other materials for all ages, study space for college students and local history resources.

## Community Outreach

In August 2002, library staff participated in the annual *Driver Awareness* community event co-sponsored by the city of Mendota, county and state law enforcement agencies. The purpose of the event is to encourage safe, responsible driving practices that will help reduce the number of traffic fatalities in the area. More than 500 people visited the “Aprendo Van” mobile literacy unit (shown below) that was featured at the event. Residents were given a tour of the vehicle, provided information about literacy and library services and were encouraged to view and commented on possible design options and services for a new library.



Library staff also gathered input from preschool staff during monthly preschool outreach visits through the library day care bookmobile. Preschool staff want space in the library designated for young children, and more picture and concept books and programs for children, parents and families that promote learning.

## Interviews with Key Leaders

Library staff conducted a series of interviews with key leaders who represent many segments of the community. Leaders who were interviewed include Robert Silva, Alfonso Sierras, and John Flores, Mendota City Council; Gilbert Rossette, Superintendent, Mendota Unified School District; Nancy Daniels, Westside Youth; Juan Montes, Workforce Connection; William Smith, Lions Club; and Ed Petry, Senior Center. Mr. Rossette, Superintendent, Mendota Unified School District, grew up in Mendota, attended Mendota schools and used the Mendota Library at its current location. He and the other leaders are strong advocates for the community and want a broader range of educational, cultural, recreational and career opportunities within the community that will enable residents to improve their quality of life.

## Comments & Suggestions

Residents of Mendota were also encouraged to provide input through informal oral, written or electronic comments. Mendota has a high population of non-traditional library users, including immigrants, migrant farm workers and Spanish speakers. The informal comments method was very effective in reaching non-traditional library users, working parents, students, senior citizens, and other residents who use the library or attend community events but are reluctant to participate in meetings or formal surveys due to time constraints, language or cultural barriers.

The following comments are illustrative of the needs expressed by residents.

### **Students**

- “I think it should have 20 computers and more books, kid section, teen section, etc. Remember 20 computers with Internet.”
- “Have advanced computers, color printer, bike rack.”
- “We need a bigger library for more books.”
- “New location and more Rap CDs.”
- “I think the ink should have color when we print something out of the computer.”
- “I wish we could have more thick books, because I read almost all of the books here in the library.”

### **Teachers**

- “I teach Migrant Head Start. I would like to have access to more Spanish children’s books at preschool level 3-5 and Spanish board books for infants and toddlers. We especially need books to use with lesson plan themes: transportation; community helpers; careers; farm, zoo, and sea animals; feelings and emotions. It would be nice to have story hours at infant-toddler level.”
- “The city of Mendota needs a new library. The current library is too small in size and inadequate to provide appropriate services for the Mendota community. The Mendota Library needs more educational material including books, computers and more research books.”

### **Resident** (electronic comment)

- “I would like to take the time to make a comment regarding the plans of building a new library here in the City of Mendota. I personally think that it’s a great idea because many kids will learn the functions such as the Internet, word processing and many other programs, which will be the materials needed to succeed in the future. It also gives them a chance to get a great book and spend time with their parents or relatives, which helps keep that family bond together. I think Mendota needs a larger library that can offer more options to the folks here, like more up to date books and more computers also some training from the faculty would also be a good idea. I really believe that knowledge is power and what better place to gain that knowledge than our local library.” Hector Marquez (permission to publish)

### Library Surveys

In March 1998, the Fresno County Library conducted a system-wide **Customer Satisfaction Survey** of its patrons. The Urban Libraries Council and the Center for Applied Research in Library & Information Science (CARLIS) at the School of Information and Library Studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo conducted the Customer Service Survey. The survey obtained 3,949 completed questionnaires from patrons leaving all Fresno County locations. The final report was prepared in April of 1998. The survey consisted of 22 questions, which determined patrons’ satisfaction with the 34 individual neighborhood libraries, and 15 questions, which gathered background information about the respondents.

The mean satisfaction score for all Fresno County Library locations was 4.89 compared to a 4.72 mean satisfaction score for the Mendota Library. 74.1% of respondents from all Fresno County Libraries were either “very” or “extremely satisfied” with the library, whereas only 68% of Mendota patrons reported they were either “very” or “extremely satisfied” with the library. Mendota Library respondents assigned a low customer satisfaction rating to several key service elements.

Only 16% of respondents were satisfied with electronic information services, and 18% were pleased with the number of computer terminals. Children's programs and arrangement of the collection also received low satisfaction ratings of 22% and 24% respectively. The Fresno County Library is pursuing a larger facility equipped with the resources and technology necessary to meet current and future demands of Mendota residents.

In April 1998 Fresno County Library commissioned the **Godbe Research and Analysis** to conduct a *Survey of Voters and Residents*. The objective of the survey was to determine the strength of support among registered voters for a ballot measure to maintain and improve libraries in Fresno County. The survey was also a measurement of areas of satisfaction and importance among all adult residents of Fresno County. The study was conducted by telephone. Voters and non-registered voters in the County of Fresno were interviewed. Respondents for the telephone survey were selected using a sample of registered voters living within Fresno County and a random dial sample of non-registered residents in Fresno County. The study was conducted in English. Godbe Research and Analysis completed 850 interviews among voters and 212 interviews among non-voters in Fresno County for a total of 1,062 interviews conducted.

The Godbe Survey determined a high probability that a ballot measure for library funding would be supported by the voters of Fresno County if the campaign included key or core features: larger book and material collections, sharing technology with schools, and increased library hours. At the overall county level 54% of respondents were satisfied with the efforts Fresno County libraries have made to provide services and programs for county residents. 56% of respondents were satisfied with services at their local library. In Service Area 1, which includes Mendota, local satisfaction with the library was ranked at 53%.

When asked to identify the programs and services that are most important, respondents overall answered that "programs for children, teens, students and seniors were the most important, followed by expanded book and material collections. In the last question of the survey, both **"Programs for children, teens, students and seniors"**, and **"Expanded book and materials collections"** received the top two satisfaction ranking from respondents overall. These two service elements, in addition to **"Computers, Internet access/educational software"** were included in the quadrant that identified "high importance but low satisfaction". Library hours and key service elements from the Godbe survey were targeted in the Measure B campaign.

In the geographic subdivision Area 1, which includes Mendota, Godbe Survey respondents placed high importance on providing key library services that were also identified during the Mendota community needs assessment. 47.7% of respondents in Area 1 rated computer and Internet access as "very important" compared to 46% of respondents countywide. 64.4% of Area 1 respondents rated programs for children, teens and seniors as "very important" whereas 58.3% of respondents countywide rated these services as "very important." 57.2% of Area 1 respondents rated expanded book collections as "very important" compared to 55.4% of respondents countywide.

The Godbe Survey determined a library tax measure would have a good chance of succeeding on election day if the voters in Fresno County perceive it as affordable and funding will address some critical community concerns such as basic literacy, job training and expanding the library's collection of books and materials.

The Godbe results noted, "These three features (more hours, materials and services) should comprise the core of the measure and can be used effectively in arguments to encourage support for the measure throughout the campaign." Arguments that would be particularly effective in generating voter support include mention of expanded collections, sharing technology with schools and increased library hours according to the survey results.

Fresno County voters responded to the service needs of County residents with the passage of Measure B in November 1998. The key elements of the campaign were tripling the library materials budget, doubling hours and improving services. The severely inadequate facility in Mendota limits the library's ability to meet its service commitments to the residents of Mendota and fulfill its mission in the community.

### Mapping Patron Use Patterns

Experience has shown that each library has a geographic area it serves. Fresno County Library contracted with Dr. Christie Koontz, Director, GeoLib Program, at Florida State University to conduct a study, which produced service area maps and provided projected population data.

### Background Criteria for Estimating Geographic Market Areas

In today's world, estimating the geographic market area<sup>1</sup> and developing a profile of the people with the area to be served, is the first step in any type of location analysis for siting, closing, or merging any service area. Determining the market area is problematic and several approaches are offered in the library field including: 1) have local librarians agree from experience, on service area lines, acknowledging traffic patterns and/or travel time and U.S. census tract lines and population totals; 2) utilize local government planning areas that may roughly coincide with library service areas such as census block<sup>2</sup> groups or traffic analysis zones; sample registration or circulation records, plotting residences on a large map.<sup>3</sup>

Each of these approaches has advantages and disadvantages. The experience of neighborhood librarians may not include valuable library research data, or up to date U.S. census and library user data that would be reflected in a more systematic database approach. Utilizing government planning areas assumes people do not cross over legal lines daily, for many and sundry purposes. Registration data only reflects where people got their library card. Circulation data identifies patterns of use for each library, but only reflects what materials people checked out of which library. This eliminates all types of in-library use, and growing offsite use.

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<sup>1</sup> A market area is a geographical area containing the actual and potential library users of a particular library for specific goods or services.

<sup>2</sup> Blocks are the smallest of the census geographic designations. These are roughly equivalent to a city block and provided for areas lacking census tracts. Block groups are sub units of census tracts, typically having 1,000 residents. Census tracts are largely homogeneous and have 4,000 to 8,000 people.

<sup>3</sup> Nancy Van House, et al 1987. "Output Measures for Public Libraries," prepared for the Public Library Development Project, 2d ed. Chicago: American Library Association, pp 35-36.

### Requirements of the Study from Fresno County Library to GeoLib

In order to fulfill the requirements of the GIS analysis study, the registration user address data of users was plotted for each of the 31 libraries, the Talking Book Library, as well as the bookmobile.

The following library service areas were plotted individually and in groups, on full-scale maps, with coloration to depict user address, library location and major topographical features including:

- a) Auberry, Shaver, Big Creek, Clovis
- b) Bear Mountain, Miramonte, Reedley, Orange Cove, Parlier
- c) Central
- d) Sanger, Piedra, Sunnyside, Parlier
- e) Selma, Fowler, Kingsburg, Laton
- f) Riverdale, Caruthers, Easton
- g) Tranquillity, San Joaquin, Mendota, Firebaugh, Kerman
- h) Politi, Fig Garden, Pinedale, Clovis
- i) Ivy, Mosqueda, Central, Sunnyside
- j) Cedar Clinton, Gillis
- k) Talking Book Library for the Blind (four county service area)
- l) Bookmobile

While no method is flawless, a combination of these methods is effective when carried out in a systematic way.

### Advantages and Disadvantages of Using Registration Data to Plot Geographic Market Area

The registration data is limited in that it only illustrates which library users registered at a specific library. This indicates several plausible assumptions (not an exhaustive list, but rather illustrative) that can be made regarding the advantages and disadvantages:

#### 1) Advantages:

- a) the library is convenient in perception or reality for the user and therefore used often;
- b) the library communicated a service or product of need or interest to the user, the user registered, and the Neighborhood remains a positive choice for that user's information needs;
- c) the registrant has transportation to the library, or lives within walking distance, and therefore, continues to use the library on a regular basis;
- d) the library may have a special collection or service that originally drew the user there to register for library services, and the user continues to use this location.

#### 2) Disadvantages:

- a) the user only registered at this particular library and uses other library locations;
- b) the user only registered at this library and never used any library location again;
- c) the user submitted a post office address, rather than a street address and could not be geo-coded.

While these are not exhaustive, these do reflect the limitations of only using registration data to determine geographic market area.



### Recommended Methodology for Fresno County Library Market Analysis Study

After plotting the individual libraries' registration data, and then in the specified groups of libraries the following review and analysis should be conducted:

1. Review the patterns of the plotted data by specific geographic location and regional group location. This data will be plotted over census tract/block groups lines.
2. Review old ascribed library service areas.
3. Assign preliminary markets based upon plotted registration data.
4. Identify topographical boundaries that delimit physical access such as railroad tracks, large highways and rivers, industrial and commercial sights.
5. Estimate distance between library facilities (still considering the topographical barriers);
6. Review square footage and hours of operation of each facility to better describe the "drawing power" of each of the libraries.
7. Review library use statistics for each library over the past few years.
8. Estimate population around each library facility in specified increments, e.g., urban .5 to 1 mile, and rural 2 to 5 miles.)
9. Review the patterns of the plotted data by specific location and regional groups again.
10. Ascribe preliminary geographic market areas to libraries.
11. Review the requested demographics (in table form from U.S. Census 2000), including population (and population projections, estimated on Traffic Analysis Zone boundaries and acquired from FCOG), age groups, race/ethnicity, households with children, urban setting. After discussion some of this demographic data can also be plotted on the maps with certain conditions such as census tracts with over 25% household with children 0-18, if staff time is available and within budget.
12. Make final adjustments and ascribe library geographic market areas.

At present this is all the data available for this analysis, coupled with the experiential advice of Fresno County Library staff. This approach to determining geographic library market areas encompasses activities of recommended approaches, excluding mapping circulation data, which will provide more precise customer descriptions for each location.

### Summary

Geographic market areas of libraries should be reviewed when

1. A library is opened or closed.
2. Dramatic changes in relevant population characteristics.
3. Changes in neighboring community.
4. Changes in proximate topography.
5. New data is available that may affect understanding of the use of the local area library, i.e., survey or focus groups data, secondary data from other sources.

Upon completion of these steps, the following service area map on page 18 was produced for Mendota Library.



#### 4 a. Executive Summary Community Analysis

The Mendota Library service area includes the City of Mendota and surrounding rural agricultural areas. The community provides an affordable life style within close proximity to agricultural work, the predominate occupation of residents. There are very few career, educational and cultural opportunities available locally. Residents must travel to Fresno, 35 miles east of Mendota, to access a broad range of opportunities and services. Mendota has experienced a 62% population growth since the 1980 census. The population is expected to reach 20,000 by the year 2020 representing a 106% growth rate over the next 20 years.

##### Demography

The demographic information presented throughout the community needs assessment was derived primarily from the Census 2000 and California State agencies. The demographics of Mendota reflect that of many rural agricultural communities in Fresno County and other Central San Joaquin Valley areas. Mendota statistical averages presented below contrast dramatically with state and national averages.

- The 2002 average **API Score** for the Mendota Unified School District is 568 well below the state target of 800.
- A 40% **Poverty Rate** is sharply higher than the state rate of 14.2% and the national rate of 11.8%.
- **Per capita income** of \$8, 512 is much lower than the state per capita of \$22,711 and the national per capita of \$ 21, 587.
- **The Literacy rate** at level 1 is 29% for Fresno County, which is lower than the state rate of 24% and the national level of 23%. Linguistic isolation in the Mendota area is estimated to be 32.5%.
- The **Unemployment rate** is 35.7%, a much higher rate than the state rate of 4.9% and the national unemployment rate of 4.0%.
- The **Median age** of 25.7 is younger than the state median of 33.3 years and the national median age of 35.3 years.
- The **Hispanic or Latino** population is 93.6% of the total compared with the state Hispanic population of 32.4% and the national population of 12.5%
- **Population by Occupation** shows 43.3% of employed residents work in the farming, fishing and forestry sector, a dramatically higher percentage than the state average of 1.3% and the national level of 0.7%.
- The **Median Property Value** is only \$83,400, well below the state median of \$211,500 and the national median of \$119,600.
- Less than 11% of residents hold a **High School Diploma** compared to the state average of 76.8% and national average of 80.4%. An alarming 58% of Mendota residents has less than a ninth grade education.
- The one year **High School Drop Out rate** is 4.7%, almost double the state rate of 2.8%.
- The U.S. **Hispanic** population has less **access to the Internet** than White and Asian populations.

##### Government Agencies

There is a strong desire by city leadership to improve the quality of life in Mendota, and to attract businesses and jobs to the area. City officials recognize the importance of improved educational and cultural opportunities as well as a skilled work force to achieve this goal. The City Manager provided library staff with information about city zoning, proposed general plan development, and suggestions for placement of the library.

Issues discussed included current and proposed transportation and current and proposed location of business and city services. In addition, City officials provided valuable input on the service needs of Mendota residents. The Mayor and City Council are kept informed by the City Manager and through library staff presentations. Caltrans staff provided information on the planned realignment of Highway 180, which assisted in site selection. Library staff works collaboratively with many County departments on capital development projects. County departments involved in the Mendota Library project include Public Works, Real Property, Planning, Capital Projects Division, Construction Management Division, County Counsel, County Administrative Office, Board of Supervisors.

### School Agencies

Mendota Unified School District serves a student population of 2,083 through two elementary schools, one junior high school, one high school, a continuation high school and a community day school. The student population is predominately Hispanic or Latino (98%). More than 89% of students live in low-income households. 74% of students are English learners compared to 27.8% countywide and 25.4% state average, 22% are immigrants, primarily from Mexico, and 43% are children of migrant farm workers. Student demographics reflect that of the overall service area population. API scores have shown improvement but remain well below statewide scores. The District average API score is 568 compared to the statewide target of 800 for all schools. The District provides numerous support programs to help mitigate the social and economic factors that impact learning. Joint venture activities between the District and the Library will be implemented to further support student learning readiness and achievement. The Mendota Library also serves 4 publicly funded preschools and adult students who attend a community college in the region. Library resources, programs and services in the new facility will focus on meeting the general needs of all students and the specific needs of K-12 grade students.

### Community Organizations and Agencies

Many community organizations, government and non-profit agencies serve residents of the Mendota Community. Agencies provide social, health, educational, recreational, employment, emergency and other services. Community organizations expressed a variety of needs that will be addressed in the new library facility. Library materials, resources and programs for all ages, Spanish language materials, literacy resources and tutoring, job and career resources, programs for children, teens and families, and homework resources are needed. Local access to computer technology and electronic resources was consistently emphasized by local organizations, as most Mendota residents do not have a computer in the home.

### Economy and Development

The local economy is almost entirely dependent on the agricultural industry for its economic well being. The City of Mendota's goal is to move from dependence on seasonal crops to more year-round operations. Diversification of the local economy into non-agricultural areas is underscored by declining employment trends, and a recent proposal by a multi-county irrigation district to retire productive farmland in the area. Mendota and four other western Fresno County cities/communities will be impacted by the land retirement. City officials estimate that at least 60% of the jobs in Mendota are related to farming. The need to focus on non-agricultural economic development in Mendota is consistent with the Fresno County vision and current General Plan and the future of economic growth in the San Joaquin Valley.

Results of the Mendota Community Needs Assessment identified basic literacy, computer and Internet access, job and career resources, materials and programs to support the formal education and recreational needs of students, more resources and services for Spanish speakers and seniors, and meeting and gathering spaces as valued and important services.

## 4 b. Community Analysis

### (1) Government Agencies

#### City of Mendota

Mayor, Joseph Riofrio,  
City Manager, Sid Hami,  
City Clerk, Brenda Carter,

Mendota City Managers Keith Woodcock and Sid Hami provided library staff with information about city zoning, proposed general plan development and suggestions for placement of the library. The county retains final authority to select the site. Though the property once purchased becomes the property of the county and thus subject to county regulations, the county routinely uses the zoning intent from the local jurisdiction. Issues discussed included current and proposed transportation and current and proposed location of businesses and city services. City staff also provided introductions to community agencies. Since the library is funded and operated by the County, the role with the City of Mendota is informational; members of the City Council were kept informed of the library's plans through presentations from library staff and through the City Manager.

There is a strong desire by Mendota City leadership, County Human Services Department, and community leaders to co-locate County Human Services with other service providers. Funding does not permit County Human Services to proceed with this plan, but numerous meetings were held to discuss this option. The site offers adjacent space for these services.

#### County of Fresno

Public Works, Richard Brogan, Director  
County Counsel, Phillip S. Cronin  
County Administrative Office, Bart Bohn, CAO  
Fresno County Board of Supervisors, Juan Arambula, Chairman

Library staff works collaboratively with many County Departments on all phases of capital projects including site selection, acquisition, zoning, environmental and construction issues. The following County Departments provide on-going services for the Mendota Library project:

- Real Property, a department of Public Works, negotiates (with library staff) for land acquisition, requests appraisals, and prepares all documents needed for acquisition.
- Planning, also a division of Public Works, handles CEQA, Williamson Act, and zoning issues.
- Capital Projects assists with architect selection, administers contracts for architects, oversees the work of the architects, and requests services for boundary surveys and geotechnical services. Capital Projects also administers the bid process and works with the library to finalize bid awards.
- Construction Management provides onsite inspection once construction begins, handles requests for change orders, approves payments from the construction firm and provides occupancy approval. Library staff participates in regular onsite meetings with Construction Management staff, contractor, and the architect.
- County Counsel reviews all contracts, resolutions and agreements for the Library.

- The County Administrative Office provides support through their Capital Projects analyst, library analyst and the County Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). The Purchasing Department is a division of the Administrative Office and provides assistance with purchase of all furniture and equipment except computers.
- County Board of Supervisors provides final approval on site selection, agreements, resolutions, purchases, architect selection, design, bid awards, and provides authorization to submit grants.

## State of California Caltrans

County Library staff met with local Caltrans officials to discuss the proposed realignment of Highway 180, which currently divides Mendota into two quadrants. Several options are being studied. However, library and city staff believe the most likely realignment will be around the south end of the city with an access ramp onto current Highway 33 based on discussions with Caltrans staff. This alignment will center the Mendota Library in the heart of the community.

## (2) School Agencies

### Description

The Mendota Unified School District serves the City of Mendota and vicinity. The current enrollment of 2,083 is distributed among 2 elementary schools, 1 junior high school, 1 high school, 1 continuation high school, and a community day school. In addition, the District operates a State funded preschool and a federally funded Migrant Head Start Program. There are no private schools in the Mendota Library Service Area.

Each K-12 school site has a library with computers available for use by students and staff. Elementary school libraries are housed in converted mobile classrooms with little room for expansion of collections or technology. The junior high and high school each have spaces designed for library functions. The District has one School Library Media Teacher and part-time school library media staff at each site. The certificated position will be replaced with classified staff in 2003-2004 due to state funding cuts. In 1999 Mendota High School upgraded its 2 computer classrooms (labs) with a total of 51 new computers, through Title I and matching District funds. Each District classroom has at least one computer for the use of students and staff. Classroom computers have Internet capability, which enables the District to incorporate technology in the curriculum. There are approximately 8 students per computer districtwide.

The *Student Demographics* table below provides an overview of the student population.

Student Demographics	Number of Students	Percent of Student Population
Total Enrollment	2,083	100%
Hispanic or Latino	2,041	98%
Low Income	1,871	89.85%
English Learners	1,541	74%
Immigrant	458	22%
Migrant	895	43%
Special Education	166	8%
Title I	1,562	75%

Source: Mendota Unified School District Coordinated Compliance Review, December 2002

The District provides numerous support programs for “at risk” students designed to improve learning readiness, academic achievement and promote individual development. The District identified the following student support programs for supplemental joint venture library services during the needs assessment process.

Literacy Connection (K-2) was implemented at Washington Elementary five years ago. Literacy Connection is a reading assessment system that also gives teachers strategies for early literacy. The assessment method helps target reading weaknesses in students for early intervention. The Literacy Connection specialists trained the entire teaching staff at both schools in this method.

Reading Labs (K-6) is implemented at both Washington and McCabe Elementary. Resource Teachers, funded through Miller-Unruh and Title I, lead the labs. Instructional Aides are trained using the Reading Recovery system. Students who are identified as “below grade level” in their reading ability participate in the reading lab program to work on their skills in very small groups using the Reading Recovery model. The Reading Labs have greatly assisted those students who need early intervention to improve their skills. Both programs (Literacy Connections and Reading Labs) have contributed to sharp increases in API scores at both schools over the past 2 years.

GEARUP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) targets 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students at McCabe Junior High School. The goal of the program is to academically prepare and motivate Mendota Unified School District students to enter and successfully pursue post-secondary educational options upon graduation from high school. GEARUP participants, with support from parents, teachers, and volunteers at McCabe Junior High receive tutoring, mentoring, college preparatory workshops, parent education, summer enrichment opportunities, career exploration and assessment, college campus tours and other services through school and community partnerships. The program is federally funded through California State University, Fresno.

The Afterschool programs, funded through President Bush’s *No Child Left Behind Act* provide expanded academic enrichment opportunities for low performing schools. District students attend an extended day program that provides homework assistance, tutoring, ESL classes, and recreational enrichment programs designed to help students meet local and state academic standards and promote learning beyond the classroom.

Community Based English Tutoring program (CBET), funded by the State as part of the Proposition 227 law, provides District parents of English language learner students (who themselves are English learners) with services to help improve their English skills. The District holds both a morning and afternoon session. The District Director of State and Federal Programs provides curriculum and lesson plan support. Instructional Aides assist the parents with English lessons in small groups and via the computer with ESL software. Childcare is provided. The participants must agree to instruct English learner children with their new English skills. District staff monitors and verify the parents’ tutoring commitment. The program supports parental engagement in the child’s educational process and promotes family literacy.

### Migrant Education

The Migrant Education Program is a federally funded supplemental program that provides educational and support services to identified migrant children ages 3-18 and 18-21 that have not graduated from high school. Supplemental services provided by the District include language arts, reading and math tutorial, literacy and ESL tutorial, health care services, outreach advocacy and counseling.

### Teen Parents

The Mendota Unified School District has a well-defined program to assist pregnant teens and those with children to complete their high school education through traditional classroom instruction, alternative education or GED completion. Special services include on-site childcare, instruction in nutrition, parent education, and referral to health care and social service agencies.

### Special Education

The Mendota Unified School District provides programs and services for children with special needs. More than 75% of Mendota students who are enrolled in Special Education programs have a learning disability. According to the California Department of Education, "Specific Learning Disability" means "a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or do mathematical calculations. The term does not include children who have learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor handicaps, of mental retardation, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage." The library will collaborate with the District to provide appropriate high interest, modified vocabulary materials and Internet links to resources that will assist students with learning disabilities and their parents or care givers.

The joint venture activities realized during the Mendota Community Needs Assessment focus on enhancing and extending the District's academic and support programs to meet educational and lifelong learning goals of District students and families. Specific joint venture services developed during the community needs assessment include the following:

A Computer Center for all ages will house 11 computers with filtered Internet access, electronic resources, subscription databases, and links to age and content appropriate web sites that support homework needs, research, and the co-curricular interests of students and staff. A variety of computer and information literacy classes will be offered to District students, staff, parents and caregivers, and the general public. Classes will be offered in English and Spanish. Introductory to advanced skill levels will be covered. Computers will be reserved for homework use during library hours of operation. The library and district will recruit volunteers to assist students and adults with computer use.

A Family Literacy Center will provide space for one-on-one tutoring, small group instruction and theme based family learning activities targeting K-12 students, families and caregivers. A literacy collection will include print and non-print formats for independent and tutor assisted study. Materials and services will focus on reading and writing English and developing lifelong learning skills. Computers with specialized software will be available, along with listening stations, tutoring for K-12 students (provided by district staff), and special programs for students and families. The District and Library will jointly recruit volunteer tutors to instruct student and adult learners. Library staff will provide tutor training, and staff the center with help from volunteers. Literacy outreach services to preschoolers, kindergarten students and migrant families will be provided through a specially equipped mobile services unit. Materials, services and programs will respond to the service needs of students enrolled in literacy support programs and the general needs of the community at large.



A Homework Center will offer a quiet supportive environment for students to study, complete homework assignments and perform research. District paid staff and community volunteers will be available during library hours to assist students with homework needs. County Youth Services Librarians in consultation with District staff will purchase a homework collection that conforms to California grade and contents standards, and address the range of interests and abilities of District K-12 students. Textbooks for use by students in the library will be provided by the District and included in the homework collection. Students will have access to a real-time homework assistance and tutoring service on library computers. Library staff will also provide instruction on homework help web sites and other resources. Computers will be reserved for homework use, and support materials such as bibliographies and pathfinders will be developed. The homework center will support specific needs of K-12 students, and include resources to support the general needs of all students.

A Career Center will focus on services for career and job skills development in addition to life-long learning for all ages. Resources on job and career choices, vocational and post-secondary education will be developed and maintained. Civil service and college entry test books will be included in the career resource collection. Classes and workshops for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and families will be provided on topics such as interest assessment, resume preparation, job search techniques and interview skills. College entry and financial aide resources and workshops will assist students and parents in pursuing higher education.

An article in The Fresno Bee on February 4, 2003, *Valley Students Fail to Apply for Grants*, noted that "As college costs rise, almost three-fourths of students in the San Joaquin Valley who qualify for grants to help pay for expenses fail to apply for the money." A study conducted by the James Irvine Foundation, sponsored by the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium, found that Valley students from grade school up are not as well-prepared for college, do not apply at a high rate to enter college and don't receive their proportional share of college degrees as compared with other regions of the state. Valley students score lower on college entrance exams and high school exit exams than students in the rest of California. Valley students complete high school at a slightly lower rate and complete the more demanding courses required for entrance into UC and CSU systems at a significantly lower rate. Those who do graduate from college do not reflect the ethnic composition of the Valley's population of people ages 18 to 30. Whites are over represented and Hispanics under represented. A higher percentage of children grow up in families in which English is not the dominate language. Children grow up in families where college is not an expectation, so they receive less encouragement. "The region lags in the state in preparation of the work force which in turn holds down the Valley's economy," said John Welty, president of California State University, Fresno.

Valley students may believe that they can't afford to go to college, but the consortium of local colleges and universities is trying to tell families that state grants are available to pay a large portion of college costs. Cal Grants are available for students in the California State University, University of California and community college systems. The consortium held a series of workshops for students and their families to learn about financial assistance during February 2003, before the March 2003 deadline for filing applications for Cal Grants. The workshops, called "Cash for College" were offered throughout the San Joaquin Valley at local high schools and colleges. The workshop schedule was posted on the *California College Goal Sunday* web site [www.californiacollegegoalsunday.com](http://www.californiacollegegoalsunday.com), and students were directed to this and related sites in *The Fresno Bee* article.

A "Cash for College" workshop was offered at Mendota High School on Wednesday, February 19 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The day and time offered for the workshop presented challenges to students and parents who work. The "Cash for College" program provides a wonderful opportunity for the public library and the school district to collaborate on providing information to students and parents. The library provides students and parents copies of the FASFA forms and computers so those students can apply on line if they prefer. The library can partner with the high school and the college/university to provide additional workshops in the library or video-teleconferencing of the financial aid workshops at times and days of the week that are more convenient to students and parents.

The library will provide Mendota Unified School District students with career exploration opportunities through library work/study assignments coordinated by the District and library. The work experience module will include an orientation to the library profession, job shadowing, and assignments such as computer lab assistant. Teen leaders will also serve on a library teen council to assist staff in needs assessment, program planning and implementation for young adults.

Shared Electronics/Telecommunications services will include design and implementation of a training module for Mendota teachers and support staff on library services available to District children and families. The training module will include an introduction to the services and resources of the public library and how to enhance the educational experience of students through use of library resources. The district will provide library staff with information and training on K-12 curriculum, resources and programs. In addition, students will have remote access to school and public library resources through links on each party's web page.

#### School/Community Learning Enrichment

The County Library and District will provide educational and cultural programs designed to enrich the learning experience of students, families and the community. A K-6 Fine Arts Program featuring instruction in art, music, and drama will be conducted by District staff at the library with support by youth librarians. Children will display their talents as part of summer reading program activities. Young Adult Outreach and Parent Education classes will meet additional life long learning needs expressed by the district and community.

Library Service Area Schools, K-12  
Mendota Unified School District

<b>School Name and Location</b>	<b>Grade Levels</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Total Staff</b>
McCabe Elementary 250 S. Derrick St. Mendota, CA 93640 Phone: (559) 655-4262	3-6	632	31	43
Washington Elementary 1599 Fifth St. Mendota, CA 93640 Phone: (559) 655-4365	K-2	589	32	52
McCabe Junior High 250 S. Derrick St. Mendota, CA 93640 Phone: (559) 655-4991	7-8	288	13	18
Mendota High School 1200 Belmont St. Mendota, CA 93640 Phone: (559) 655-0223	9-12	532	25	34
Mendota Continuation High 211 Smoot Ave. Mendota, CA 93640 Phone: (559) 655-2440	9-12	22	2	1
Mendota Community Day 241 Smoot Ave. Mendota, CA 93640	7 –10	5		1

Source: [www.greatschools.net](http://www.greatschools.net)

Mendota Unified School District

Mendota Unified School District administers two preschools in addition to K-12 instruction. The District's preschool programs include Migrant Head Start. There are two additional preschools in the service area. The Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC) and I-5 Social Services, a non-profit organization, each offer publicly funded preschool services. The Fresno County Library currently serves two Mendota preschool sites through monthly outreach visits in a specially equipped Day Care Bookmobile. The program, designed and implemented by children's librarians, exposes preschool children to exceptional age appropriate library resources and story programs to cultivate positive teaching methods at the center, and to improve literacy and listening skills of preschool children. In addition, the Literacy Outreach Bookmobile (Aprendo Van) serves each of the 4 preschools. Literacy outreach services focus on the Families for Literacy model. Children receive free books (English and Spanish with bilingual texts) and story programs to promote reading readiness. Training for parents in how to promote literacy at home is also provided as well as referrals to library or community adult literacy services. Literacy outreach also includes special family events in which stories, puppet shows, crafts and related activities are presented by trained literacy staff.

The Mendota Library serves local adult students who attend West Hills Community College campuses in close proximity to Mendota. Adult students expressed a need for reference resources in print and on-line, information literacy workshops, college and career resources, access to the latest computer technology, and quiet study areas.

### (3) Community Organizations and Service Agencies

Community organizations, governmental and non-profit agencies provide a variety of services to Mendota residents. Each organization listed below is a member of the Mendota Community Partners, a coalition of agencies that share information and resources to meet the needs of residents. The library is a coalition partner, and staff has informed other members about library services and the planned new facility during monthly meetings. Library staff gathered input from agency partners on the service needs of their organizations and clients.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Audience</b>	<b>Description of Services</b>	<b>Service Needs</b>
California State Economic Dev. Dept. (EDD)	Job seekers and employers	Online job and resume bank, career assessment, workshops, skills upgrade, job club, unemployment/disability assistance, employer assistance seminars.	Jobs and career resources, workshops, access to computers, electronic and print resources, general information.
Catholic Charities Saint Guadeloupe Church	County residents	Provides food, clothing, emergency assistance, and referrals to other agencies.	Link to service providers, literacy tutoring for clients, job resources.
Fresno County Economic Opportunities Comm. (EOC)	County residents  Preschool Children, staff and families	Emergency crisis intervention, housing assistance, economic development, job training and employment.  Preschool program designed to prepare children to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.	Information to support programs, career and job skills workshops relative to clients' needs, work experience opportunities, meeting space.  Materials and programs for preschool children and families.
Fresno County Human Services System (HSS)	County residents of all ages	Provides a broad range of health and social services to residents of all ages	Forum to distribute information, meeting/ conference room space, outdoor area to offer mobile medical services, information and referral.
Fresno County Sheriff's Department	County residents	Emergency services and investigations, crime prevention, co-sponsors crime prevention events.	Distribute crime prevention literature, space for programs and workshops.

Fresno County Workforce Connection	Residents 16 & older	Job search, career counseling, job placement assistance and job skills training.	Job and career resources & workshops, client access to computers, electronic and print resources, literacy tutoring, distribute information, meeting area and work experience opportunities.
GEAR UP, California State University, Fresno	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> grade students	Grant funded early intervention programs and services to increase college entry rate among Mendota Unified students.	Homework resources, computer access, age appropriate materials to support academic and co-curricular programs, study and meeting space with multimedia capabilities, volunteer opportunities, college preparatory workshops.
I-5 Business Development Corridor, Inc.	Westside communities & governments	Non-profit corporation comprised of west county cities. I-5 works to attract business to the area and assists businesses with problem solving to achieve success. Co-sponsors annual Career Day for high school students.	Economic Development and job training resources, job training and career workshops for displaced workers and teens, computer access and literacy classes for residents, space for meetings & workshops, small business resources.
I-5 Social Services Corp., Inc.	Preschool Children and Parents	Free childcare for low-income parents who work, attend school or job training.	Materials and programs for preschool children, teachers & parents, parent education, family literacy programs, ESL and literacy materials for parents, occasional meeting space.
Mendota Chamber of Commerce	Businesses and community leaders	Supports local businesses and works to attract consumers and businesses to Mendota, Co-sponsors community events and improvement projects.	Small business information & resources, computer access and computer literacy training, workshops for small business owners, space and multimedia equipment for meetings and events, forum to distribute information.

Mendota Community Partners	Organizations and agencies that serve residents	Facilitates partnerships between community organizations to meet needs of residents.	Distribute community calendar, provide meeting space for organizations, computer access and library resources, websites linked through library homepage, provide referrals, accessible building.
Mendota Lions Club	Community leaders & volunteers	Sponsors recreational events for children, raises funds for community projects and improvements, supports optometry services for those in need.	Information to support projects and programs, forum to distribute information, space for possible fundraising events, local history resources and programs, computer resources, general information.
Mendota Pop Warner Football & other recreational sports leagues for children	Children 9-16	Recreational football, baseball, basketball, soccer and other sports leagues for children & teens.	Age appropriate materials to support sports and other co-curricular interests of children & teens, access to computers, Spanish materials and meeting space with multimedia equipment.
Mendota Senior Center	Older Adults age 55+	Recreational activities, information and referral, health screenings, forms assistance, hot meals site.	Popular materials, local history and cultural resources, Large print books in English and Spanish, quiet reading area, cultural programs, computer access and computer literacy classes, volunteer opportunities, space to interact with friends, accessible building.
Mendota Unified School District English Learner Advisory Committee	Concerned parents & residents	Community advocates who advise and recommend services to district administrators and trustees for limited English speaking students and parents.	ESL materials, literacy tutoring for children and adults, bilingual programs, materials and resources for Spanish speakers, computer access and training, homework help for students, distribute information, meeting space, library materials for children and teens.

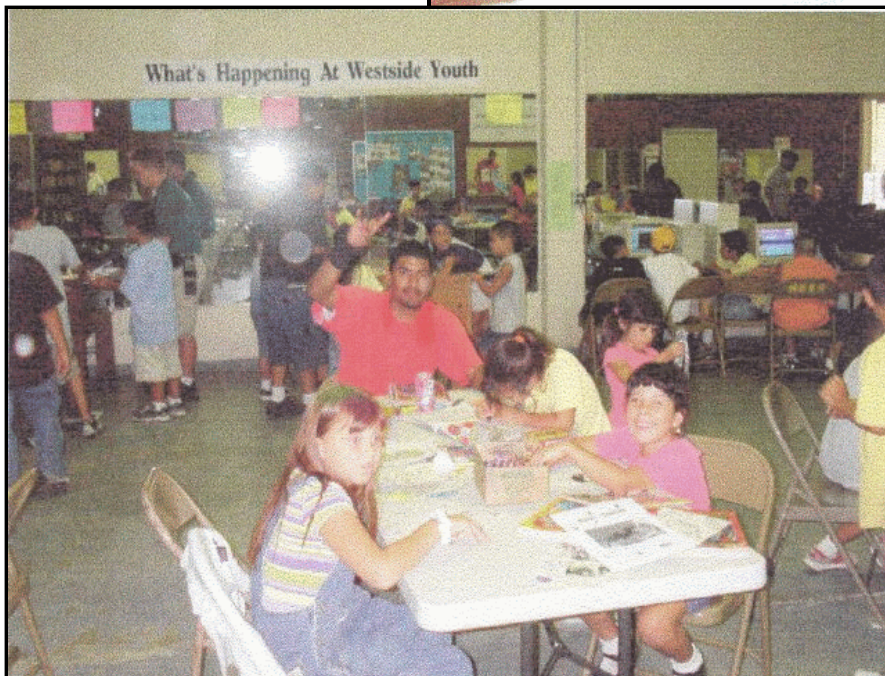
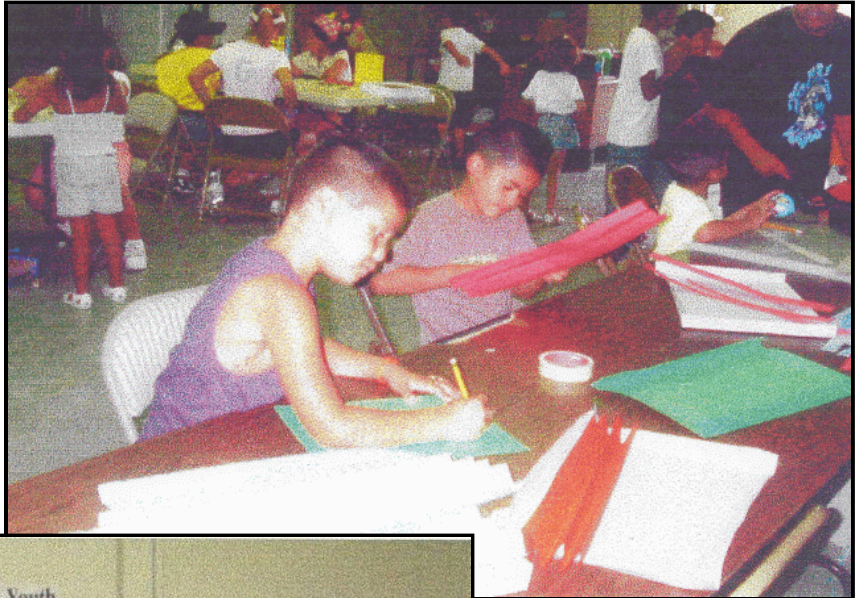
Mendota Unified School District School Site Councils	Parents and school personnel	Collaborates to develop, implements and evaluates the School Site Plan.	Literacy tutoring for children and adults, materials & resources for children, computer access and training, programs and homework help for students, family programs.
Proteus, Inc	County Residents	Provides employment assistance, job referrals, on the job training, vocational training & referral to other agencies.	Jobs and career resources & workshops, computer access, electronic and print resources, literacy resources, work experience opportunities, meeting space.
West Fresno Crisis Center	Community residents	Hotline, crisis intervention, counseling, home visits, advocacy, domestic crime prevention education.	Electronic and print resources, education and job resources for clients, computer access, general information and referral, meeting space.
Westside Youth Center, Inc		Recreational and educational activities for children and teens, computers, sports programs, commodity distribution, promotes civic pride through community service projects.	Literacy tutoring for children and adults, materials and resources for children and teens, computer access and training, programs and homework help for students, family events, meeting space.

Source: Mendota Community Partners  
Fresno County Resources Online Directory, [www.fresnolibrary.org](http://www.fresnolibrary.org)

Community organizations expressed a variety of service needs. Library materials in English and Spanish for all ages, ESL materials, appropriate resources for children and teens, homework resources, job and career, and college preparatory information were identified. Materials on Mendota history and culture, and large print books were also noted during the needs assessment. Services that are needed include computer access and training, homework help, literacy tutoring, job and career workshops, and programs for children, teens and families.

Throughout the Needs Assessment process, it was apparent that a multi purpose facility is an important service and quality of life need in the community. Mendota residents are isolated by geographic and socioeconomic factors. A “one-stop” facility that will address a variety of needs in the daily lives of residents is desired. The new library building needs to function as a homework and tutoring center, cultural center, meeting and gathering place, job and career training center, outlet for resources and information in many formats, gathering place for children and teens, and facilitator for other human services. The new Mendota Library will address community needs through a new facility designed to accommodate the complex service needs of the community.





**What's Happening at Westside Youth.** The Westside Youth organization (pictured above) is a non-profit agency that provides recreational, educational and cultural activities for Mendota children and teens. The facility is located near the current library site and is often used by students for homework and study space as the library has no room to accommodate this need. Since the facility is heavily used for recreational activities, the noise level is high and space to do homework is often unavailable. Westside Youth Director, Nancy Daniel, expressed a need for more resources to support children and teens including, study space, computer access and information literacy training, more books, non-print materials and joint programs in the library.



#### (4) Demography

##### Population Characteristics and Projections:

The Mendota Library Service Area includes the City of Mendota and surrounding rural, unincorporated areas. The current population is 9,712 according to a 2001 Geographic Information Study (GIS) completed by the GeoLib Program, Florida State University. GeoLib was commissioned by the Fresno County Library to determine library service area boundaries by plotting 2001 patron registration data and correlating the data with Census 2000 information. Library staff verified the Florida State findings. The GeoLib study projected a service area population of 13,736 for 2010 and 16,738 for the year 2020. The City Manager of Mendota is projecting a 25,000 service area population for the year 2020 based on the expected success of several projects to bring new businesses to the community, such as a Federal Prison and a mushroom plant. Library staff believes 25,000 is overly optimistic because of limited access to water sources. Accordingly, the library is using 20,000 for its projected service area population based on countywide and regional growth trends.

Since 1990, Fresno County has experienced a 19.8% population increase. There are several factors that contribute to the significant population growth. First, immigration continues to have a significant influence in the county. Second, for many of these immigrants, the average age is relatively younger than the general population, resulting in greater fertility rates. Third, relocation from other parts of the state has brought people who are generally looking for a lower cost of living in the region. (Source: New United Way, Vision 20/20 Report, 2000) In a 1998 publication entitled *A Statistical Tour of California's Great Central Valley*, Dr. Kenneth Starr, State Librarian of California notes: "Demographers predict the rise of the population of California by some ten million in the next decade and a half. Central California will capture much of this growth." Source: <http://www.greatvalley.org>

Demographic data presented in this portion of the Mendota Library Needs Assessment was extracted from the Census 2000 for Mendota Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) 93640. The Mendota ZCTA boundaries and demographic profile are closely aligned with library service area data realized from the GeoLib study. Specific demographic characteristics of the library service area are presented and analyzed in section 4.

##### Demographic Data and Analysis

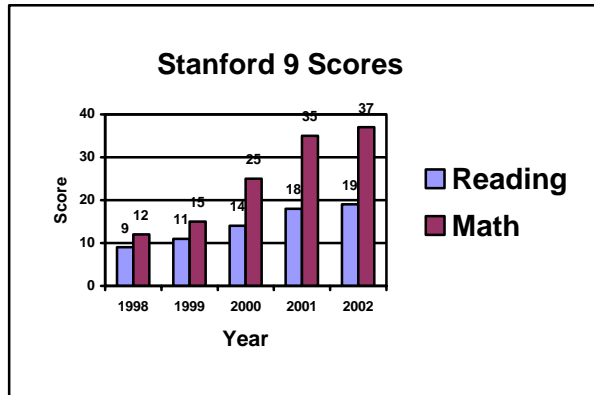
##### **API SCORES**

Mendota Unified School District Schools	API Score 2000	API Score 2001	API Score 2002	Similar School rank	State rank
McCabe Elementary	467	533	559	5	1
Washington Elementary	496	639	665	10	4
McCabe Junior High	482	582	569		
Mendota High School	443	475	481	3	1
Mendota Continuation High	NA	NA	N/A		
Mendota Community Day	NA	NA	N/A		
District Average	472	557	568		
Source: California Department of Education, Education Demographics Unit Mendota Unified School District, Coordinated Compliance Review, 12/2002					

API scores in the Mendota Unified School District realized more than a 20% overall gain from 2000 to 2002. However, the overall growth from 2001 to 2002 was only about 2%. Though the District has shown improvements, scores remain well below 800, the state API target for all schools. The similar school and state ranking data presented in the chart above correspond with 2002 API scores. The “Similar School Rank” shows how individual school scores compare with schools that have similar social and economic characteristics on a scale of 1-10. “State Rank” compares scores of schools statewide on a scale of 1-10. Only Washington Elementary compares favorably with similar schools and all schools ranked well below schools statewide.

The scores for McCabe Junior High School is from data collected by the Mendota Unified School District. McCabe Jr. High’s 2002 Growth and 2002 Base API cannot be reported because, for at least one STAR content area used in API calculations, this school failed to test a significant portion of students who were not exempt from testing in 2002. All Mendota schools scored well below standard when compared with schools statewide.

Mendota Unified’s Stanford 9 reading and math percentile scores, presented in the *Stanford 9 Scores* figure below, further illustrates low overall academic performance among students in the District. The data was extracted from the California Department of Education and shows the percentage of Mendota Unified students who scored above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (median) on the Stanford 9 Achievement Test from 1998-2002. In 2002, only 19% of students scored above the median range in reading, and 37% in math. Mendota Unified API and Stanford 9 scores can be correlated with a high student population of English learners, immigrants and migrants, whose parents are not equipped with the basic knowledge and skills needed to participate as active partners with the school and community in the academic development of their children. There is a concern at the State level that chronic under-performance may lead to an under skilled workforce, unemployment, or other social ramifications. Schools serving higher socioeconomic students tend to exceed state performance targets. Therefore, there may be need to examine equity and resource distribution issues.



The challenge of attracting fully certified teachers to work in the Mendota Unified School District also has a significant impact on student performance. The District has a well-established work experience and mentoring program for education students at California State University Fresno in hopes of attracting new teachers. According to California Department of Education data, approximately 70.7% of district teachers are fully certified compared to the state average of 86%. While certification is no guarantee that a teacher is qualified, certification does indicate that a teacher is passionate enough about teaching to spend time and money getting prepared. Certified teachers also have training in important skills such as classroom management and lesson planning. Uncertified teachers may have strong knowledge of their subject area, but they don’t always know how to cope with the complex dynamics of the classroom. Another factor to consider is whether teachers are certified in their subject area; even if a teacher is certified in English, this expertise won’t be of significant help in the algebra class ([www.greatschools.net](http://www.greatschools.net)).

## POVERTY RATE

Demographic Area	Percent below Poverty Level (1989)	Percent below Poverty Level (1999)	Percent change
City of Mendota	26	41.9	15.9
Zip Code Tabulation Area 93640	NA	40.0	NA
Fresno County	21.4	22.9	1.5
California	12.5	14.2	1.7
United States	12.8	11.8	-1.0
Source: Census 1990 Summary File 3 (STF3) DP-4. Income and Poverty Status in 1989			

The *Poverty Rate* table illustrates the historically high rate of poverty in the Mendota Library Service Area. The 1999 rate of poverty in Mendota is almost double the Fresno County average and triple State and national averages. A complex array of socioeconomic factors contribute to poverty in Mendota, including an unskilled workforce and a large population of immigrants from underdeveloped countries who have limited education, literacy and English language skills.

## POVERTY INDICATORS--2000-2001 School Year

School	Free or Reduced Meals N (%) of students	CalWORKs (Formerly AFDC)	Enrollment Used for Meals and CalWORKS*
Mendota Unified School District	1,347 (91%)	306 (14.9%)	2,053
Fresno County Schools	111,856 (61.9%)	37,057 (20.3%)	182,836
California State Schools	2,829,005 (46.8%)	682,590 (11.0%)	6,183,646
Source: California Department of Education, Education Demographics Unit <a href="http://www.cde.ca.gov/dataquest">www.cde.ca.gov/dataquest</a>			

Extreme poverty in Mendota is further illustrated by the high percentage of students enrolled in the school meals program as presented in the *Poverty Indicators* table. 91% of Mendota Unified School District students receive free or reduced price school meals, and almost 15% of student households are eligible for public assistance. Children at or below 130% of the poverty level are eligible for free meals, and children 130% to 185% of the poverty level are eligible for meals at a reduced price. *Children Now* ([www.childrennow.org](http://www.childrennow.org)) noted that “each year of childhood spent in poverty, children are two percentage points more likely to be in a grade level below their age.” *Children Now* is a nonpartisan, independent voice for America’s children. Using innovative research and communications strategies, *Children Now* promotes pioneering solutions to problems facing America’s children. The organization focuses particular attention on the needs of children who are poor or at risk, while working to improve conditions for all children by making them a top priority across the nation.

## PER CAPITA INCOME

Income Parameter	Mendota ZCTA 93640	Fresno County	California	United States
Per Capita Income	\$8,512	\$15,495	\$22,711	\$21,587
Median House Hold income	\$20,352	\$34,725	\$47,493	\$41,994
Median Family Income	\$23,488	\$38,455	\$53,025	\$50,046
Median Earnings	-----	-----	-----	-----
Male	\$11,839	\$33,375	\$40,627	\$37,057
Female	\$7,954	\$26,501	\$31,722	\$27,194
Source: Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) DP-3. Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000				

The income parameters presented in the *Per Capita Income* table show considerably fewer earnings for Mendota residents and families than all other jurisdictions. The Mendota per capita income is almost 50% less than the Fresno County average, and almost two-thirds less than state and national averages. In addition, the Mendota median household income is well below all other averages presented in the table. The agricultural industry is the largest employer within the library service area. Literacy, educational attainment and other demographic elements presented in this section are barriers to employment in jobs that offer a living wage.

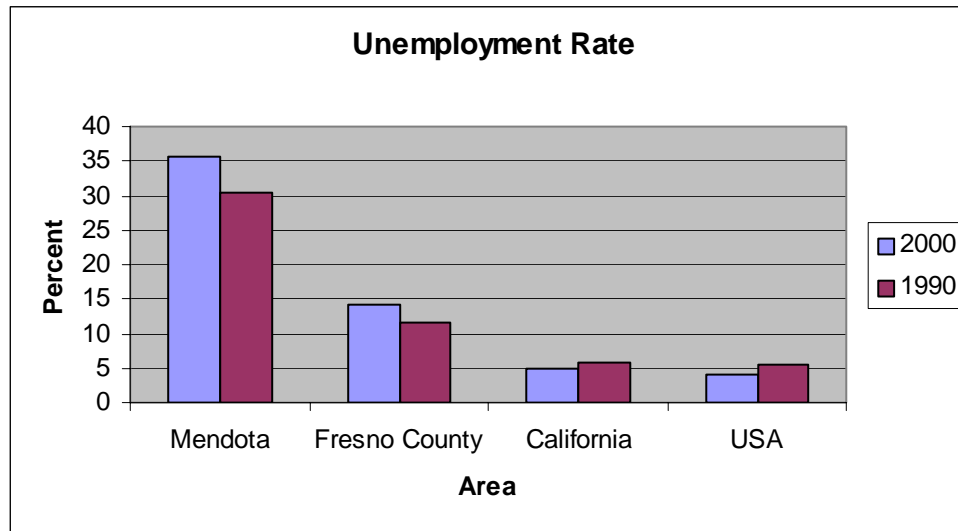
## ADULT LITERACY RATE (Estimates)

Location	Population Age 16+	Percent at Level 1	Percent at Level 1 or 2
Fresno County	477,691	29	54
California	22,786,281	24	46
United States	191,000,000	23	50
Source: State of Literacy in America. <a href="http://www.nifl.gov/readers">www.nifl.gov/readers</a>			

In the 1991 National Literacy Act, Congress defined literacy as: “an individual’s ability to read, write, and speak in English, and compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, and in society to achieve one’s goals, and develop one’s knowledge potential.” The National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS), a statistical study on literacy in the United States commissioned by the U. S. Department of Education, established a literacy scale based on an individual’s ability to process and assimilate information on many levels. The NALS divided the continuum into 5 levels, with level 5 reflecting the highest skills and level 1 the lowest. Mendota is a small rural community; literacy data for the library service area is therefore unavailable. The adult literacy rate in Fresno County is lower than state and national averages. In Fresno County, 29% of adults process information at level 1, which indicates difficulty in using certain reading, writing and computation skills needed to function on a daily basis. It is estimated that Level 1 literacy is considerably higher in the Mendota area than Fresno County as a whole, based on research conducted by the Fresno County Library Adult Literacy Coordinator, and student demographics of the Mendota Unified School District.

Literacy skills among adult residents in Mendota can be correlated with English language proficiency and educational attainment. According to Census 2000 data, 52.2% of Mendota area residents in all age categories “Speak English less than very well”, and 32.5% of the library service area population 5 years and older live in “linguistically isolated” households. In addition, more than 70% of students in the Mendota Unified School District are English learners which indicates limited literacy skills in English.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Source: Labor Force & Unemployment tables  
[www.calmis.ca.gov](http://www.calmis.ca.gov)

The *Unemployment Rate* figure shows a much higher percentage of jobless residents in Mendota over the past decade relative to county, state and national jurisdictions. Census 2000 data shows a 35.7% unemployment rate in Mendota compared to 4.9% in California and 4.0% in the nation. High unemployment can be attributed to the seasonal nature of work in the area’s predominate industry (agriculture) coupled with few employment options for a largely unskilled labor force.

## POPULATION COMPOSITION by AGE (Percent)

Population composition by age	Mendota ZCTA 93640	Fresno County	California	USA
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>9,160</b>	<b>799,407</b>	<b>33,871,648</b>	<b>281,421,906</b>
Percent				
Under 5 years	9.3	8.5	7.3	6.8
5 to 9 years	8.8	9.3	8.0	7.3
10 to 14 years	9.0	9.0	7.6	7.3
15 to 19 years	11.3	8.7	7.2	7.2
20 to 24 years	10.4	7.6	7.0	6.7
25 to 34 years	16.8	14.0	15.4	14.2
35 to 44 years	14.3	14.5	16.2	16.0
45 to 54 years	9.5	11.5	12.8	13.4
55 to 59 years	3.1	3.9	4.3	4.8
60 to 64 years	2.4	3.1	3.4	3.8
65 to 74 years	3.4	5.2	5.6	6.5
75 to 84 years	1.5	3.5	3.8	4.4
85 years and older	0.2	1.2	1.3	1.5
Median age (years)	25.7	29.9	33.3	35.3
18 years and over	66.3	67.9	72.7	74.3
65 years and over	5.2	9.9	10.6	TBE
Source: Census 2000 Summary File SF1 DP-1 Profile of General Demographic Characteristics				

The Mendota population is younger than Fresno County, State, and national averages as reflected in median age figures. More than 38% of Mendota's total population is under 20 years of age, indicating a high population of school age children in the library service area. Family size is another indicator of a high percentage of school age children in the Mendota Library service area. Census 2000 data shows the average family size in the Mendota area as 4.36 compared to the state average of 3.43 and the national rate of 3.14. More than 40% of the population is 20 to 44 years of age and 20.1% of the population is 45 years and older. A higher percentage of the Mendota population is under the age of 45 than county, state and national averages. There are fewer Mendota residents over 55 years of age compared to county, state and national figures.

## POPULATION HISPANIC or LATINO and RACE (Percent)

Demographic Area	Mendota ZCTA	Fresno County	California	United States
<b>Total Population</b>	9,169	799,407	33,871,648	281,421,906
<b>Percent</b>				
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	93.6	44.0	32.4	12.5
Mexican	72.0	37.8	25.0	7.3
Puerto Rican	9.0	0.2	0.4	1.2
Cuban	2.0	0.1	0.2	0.4
Other Hispanic or Latino	21.5	5.9	6.8	3.6
Not Hispanic or Latino	4.2	56.0	67.6	87.5
Source: Census 2000 Summary File (SF 1) DP-1 Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000				

The population table presented above shows a more than 90% Hispanic or Latino population in the Mendota area compared to the State average of 32.4% and a 12.5% national average. The Hispanic population in the library service area is primarily of Mexican origin. However, immigrants from Central America, particularly Guatemala, are an emerging population. According to the Census 2000 data, the Hispanic population is an emerging majority in California and the fastest growing population in the United States. This trend is expected to continue on local, county, state, and national levels over the next decade. The new Mendota Library, with enhanced services to Hispanic and Spanish speaking populations, will make a bold statement about Fresno County 's commitment to meet the varied needs of its community.

## POPULATION by OCCUPATION (Percent)

Occupation	Mendota ZCTA	Fresno County	California	United States
Management, professional and related	6.0	29.5	36.0	33.6
Service occupations	9.5	16.2	14.8	14.9
Sales and office occupations	11.9	26.0	26.8	26.7
Farming, fishing and forestry	43.3	6.6	1.3	0.7
Construction, extraction, and maintenance	6.5	8.5	8.4	9.4
Production, transportation and material moving	22.8	13.3	12.7	14.6
Source: U S Census, Table DP-3 Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics:2000 DP-3 Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000				

Almost one-half (50%) of Mendota residents are employed in the farming, fishing and forestry sector and more than 20% in production (primarily agricultural products) compared to much smaller percentages of workers throughout the county, state and nation. By contrast, a much smaller percentage of Mendota residents are employed in professional and skilled occupations than county, state and national levels.

## POPULATION by INDUSTRY (Percent)

Industry	Mendota ZCTA 93640	Fresno County	California	United States
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	46.8	8.4	1.9	1.9
Construction	2.6	5.7	6.2	6.8
Manufacturing	6.7	8.3	13.1	14.1
Wholesale Trade	12.7	5.0	4.1	3.6
Retail Trade	3.7	11.2	11.2	11.7
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	6.1	4.5	4.7	5.2
Information	0.4	2.1	3.9	3.1
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	0.4	5.5	6.9	6.9
Professional, scientific, management, administrative and waste management services	2.6	7.3	11.6	9.3
Educational, health and social services	9.2	22.8	18.5	19.9
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	4.0	7.2	8.2	7.9
Other services (except public administration)	3.2	5.1	5.2	4.9
Public Administration	1.7	6.8	4.5	4.8
Source: Census 2000 Summary File DP-3 Profile of Selected Economic Characteristics: 2000				

The economy in Mendota, historically and today, is primarily based on agriculture. A much higher percentage of Mendota adults are employed in the agricultural industry than the combined percentage of county, state and national workers. By contrast, fewer Mendota residents are employed in all other industries than county, state, and national averages.

Few skills are required for the manual labor jobs available to the majority of residents employed in agriculture. Again, there is a direct correlation between educational attainment, literacy skills and employment options. The *Fresno Bee* published an article: *Valley's education falls short*, on January 26, 2003, that illustrates the crisis Fresno County employers face in recruiting skilled workers. A local manufacturing employer noted in the article, "We need just the basic-reading, writing, and math, but they (job candidates) don't have skills." The article further stated, "Some applicants don't speak or read English well enough to follow simple safety instructions. They don't know enough math to use a tape measure." The new Mendota library will provide literacy, career services, job skill workshops and resources to help residents obtain skills that will lead to more employment options.



## MEDIAN PROPERTY VALUE

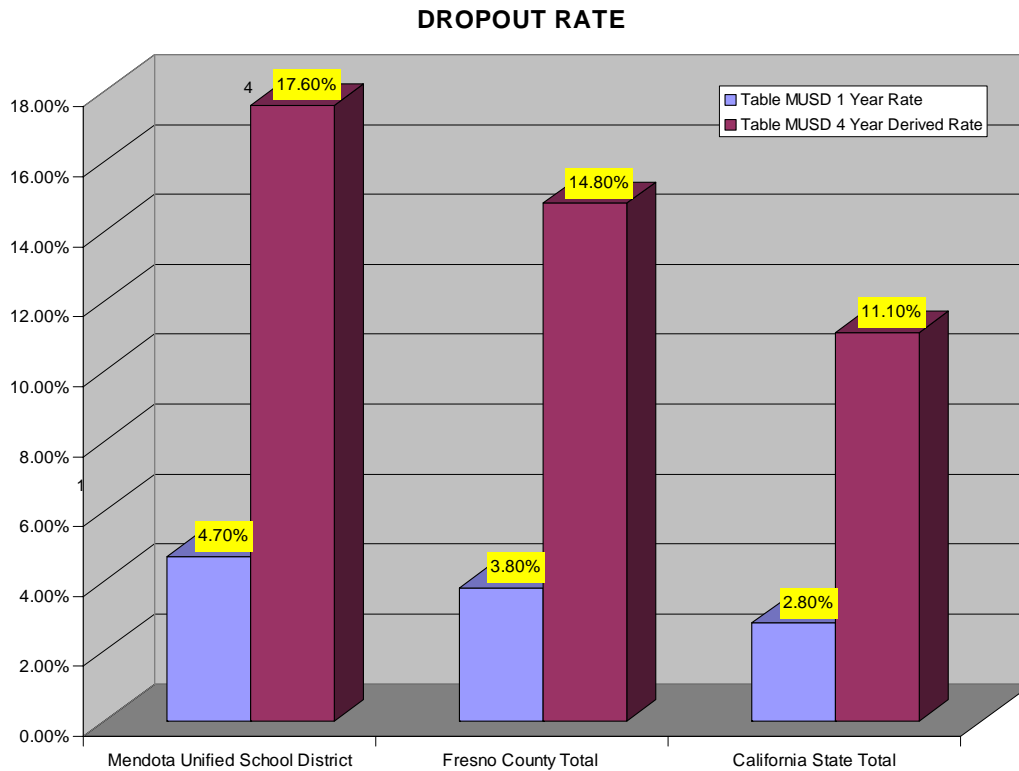
Mendota ZCTA 93640	\$83,400
City of Mendota	\$82,000
Fresno County	\$104,900
California	\$211,500
United States	\$119,600
Source: Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000	

The Median property value in Mendota ZCTA and the City of Mendota is less than 50% of the California State median. The Mendota Library service area offers affordable housing to residents who have lower income levels. Although the selling price of a home in the Mendota area is relatively low compared to county and state values, homeownership is still out of reach for the majority of residents due to low-income and fluctuating employment. During the second quarter of 2002 the median price of a home in Fresno County was \$135,000. According to an article in the Fresno Bee on August 13, 2002, only 46% of households in Fresno County can afford the median priced home, which is down from 53% as of June 2001, representing a 7% drop in one year. University professor and economist Joseph Penbera commented in the article that the "high unemployment rate in Fresno County, 12.8% in July 2002, keeps wage levels down and any raises people get are lost in higher energy and health care costs. Household incomes have not risen appreciably in a decade."

## POPULATION 25+ by EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

<b>Educational Attainment (Age 25 and over)</b>	<b>% Mendota ZCTA</b>	<b>% Fresno County</b>	<b>% California</b>	<b>% United States</b>
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	58.1	18.3	11.5	7.5
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma	19.0	14.1	11.7	12.1
High school graduate	10.4	67.5	76.8	80.4
Some college, no degree	10.1	22.4	22.9	21.0
Associate degree	1.3	6.5	7.1	6.3
Bachelor's degree	0.5	12.0	26.6	24.4
Graduate or professional degree	0	5.5	9.5	8.9
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, State and County QuickFacts (2000) <a href="http://quickfacts.census.gov">http://quickfacts.census.gov</a>  Census 2000 Summary Files 1 (SF 1) DP1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000				

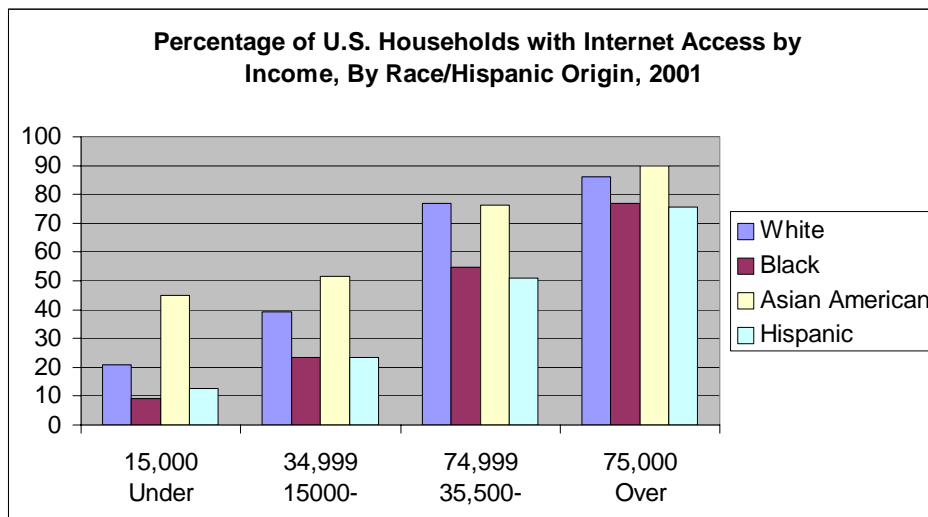
Only 10.4% of Mendota adults hold a high school diploma, a much lower percentage than county, state and national averages combined. An alarming 58% of Mendota residents has less than a ninth grade education. Less than 1% of the Mendota area population hold a college degree compared to more than 26.6% statewide and 24.4% on the national level. Low educational attainment in Mendota can be attributed to a high population of immigrant and migrant residents who originate from cultures where educational opportunities are not accessible to the majority and therefore not perceived as attainable.



Source: California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit

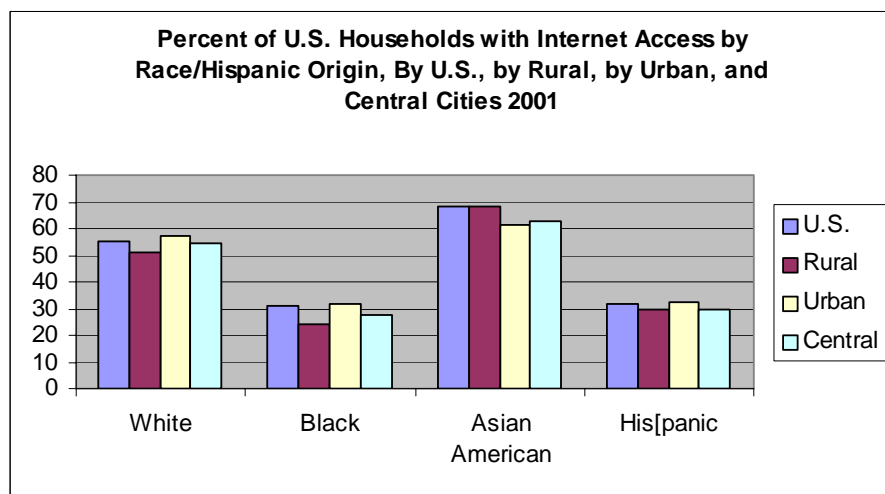
The 2000-2001 drop out rate in the Mendota Unified School District is presented in the *Dropout Rate* figure above. The 4.7% rate in Mendota is higher than county and state averages. The four-year derived drop out rate in Mendota is 17.6% compared to 14.8% in Fresno County and 11.1% statewide. The problem of dropouts is complex and involves families, schools and communities, both in explaining the problem and in solving it. Dropouts face an uncertain future with more unemployment, less earning power, and are more likely to be on public assistance. The nature of the issue requires an interagency approach and resources to help support these students.

Another factor that will further impact the drop out rate in the future is the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) requirement. The CAHSEE testing program will have huge implications for the class of 2004 and beyond. The test was first administered in 2001. Only 34% of Mendota High School freshmen passed the English-Language arts section of the test and 7% passed the math section during the 2001 testing cycle. Students must score at least 60% on the English-Language Arts section and 55% on the math portion to pass the test. If a student does not pass the test, he or she will not graduate with a high school diploma.



Source: Nation Online: How Americans are Expanding Their Use of the  
[www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome).

Few technologies have spread as quickly, or become so widely used, as computers and the Internet. These information technologies are rapidly becoming common fixtures of modern social and economic life, opening opportunities and new avenues for many Americans. However, Public Libraries must be aware of the implications for our patrons who do not have access to computers or the Internet through their homes, work or schools. It is our responsibility to meet the needs of people who have not yet had the opportunity to develop computer skills or learn to use the Internet. *A Nation Online: How Americans are Expanding Their Use of the Internet*, an administrative report from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration ([www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome)), informs us that people with a lower income do not use computers or the Internet as often as people with a higher income. People of Hispanic origin use the computer less often than Whites or Asians regardless of income level. Computer access was identified as an important need in Mendota. The population is almost 100% Hispanic and poverty is more than 40%. The public library provides the only access to computer resources for most adults in the community.



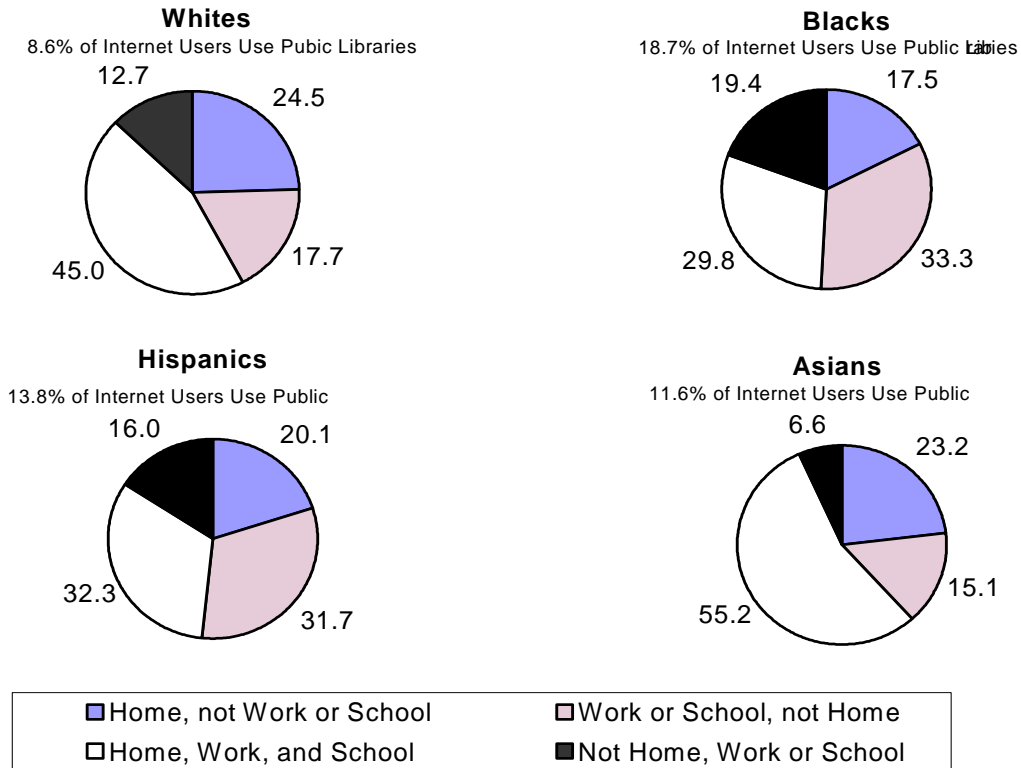
Source: A Nation Online: How Americans are Expanding Their Use of the Internet. [www.ntia.doc.gov.ntiahome](http://www.ntia.doc.gov.ntiahome)

The figure *Percent of U.S. Households with Internet Access by Race/Hispanic Origin, by location*, shows the disparity among Internet users by locale in 2001. Internet use by Hispanics was considerably less than by White and Asian Americans in all locations. In addition, Hispanics who live in rural areas have less access to the Internet than the urban population. Mendota is a rural community with a very high population of Hispanics, many of whom are immigrants from Mexico or Guatemala. The library service area is located some 35 miles from the nearest metropolitan area, Fresno. The public library is the only access most adult residents have to computer technology, as a home computer is cost prohibitive and there is no other public access in the community. Poor literacy skills, lack of proficiency in English, and limited education and knowledge of information resources, can be correlated with Internet use among Mendota adults. In the Mendota Unified School District, there are approximately 8 students per computer and access is limited to school hours only.

The table below presents the ratio of students per computers at each school site in the Mendota Unified School District.

School	# of Students per Computer
McCabe Elementary	6
Washington Elementary	16
McCabe Junior High School	7
Mendota High School/Continuation	3
District Average	8
State Average	6.7
Source: <a href="http://www.greatschools.net">www.greatschools.net</a>	

## Computer and Internet Access at the Public Library, 2000-2001



Source: A Nation On-line: How Americans are Expanding Their Use of the Internet. [www.ntia.gov.ntiahome](http://www.ntia.gov.ntiahome)

The figure, *Computer and Internet Access at the Public Library* shows the proportion of populations that access the Internet at the public library, at work and school from 2000-2001. Only 8.6% of Whites that used the Internet used the public library as an access point, while comparable figures for Blacks and Hispanics were 18.7% and 13.8% respectively. Among Asian Americans, 11.6% of Internet users accessed the Internet at the public library. In addition, 31.7% of Hispanics and 33.3% of Blacks accessed the Internet at work or school but not at home compared to much smaller percentages of Whites and Asian Americans. 16% of Hispanics and 19.4% of Blacks did not access the Internet at all during this period compared to 12.7% of Whites and 6.6% of Asian Americans.

In Mendota, there is a critical need for greater access to computer technology at the public library as expressed by most segments of the population during the community needs assessment. The library currently has 4 public use computers. There were 5,963 computer use sessions recorded at the Mendota Library during Fiscal Year 2001/2002 according to Fresno County Library annual statistical reports. This translates into 1,491 sessions per public computer. Mendota is a poor community; most residents do not have computers in the home and students have only limited school access. The Mendota Library is the only community resource for public access to the most current computer technology and electronic resources.

## 5. Analysis and Discussion of Community Characteristics

### History

The City of Mendota provides the following brief history. "Mendota is located in the northwest sector of Fresno County near the geographical center of California. It is situated in the central portion of the San Joaquin Valley, which, with the Sacramento Valley to the north, comprises the Central Valley of California. The city lies about 35 miles west of Fresno, the county seat. Mendota is one of many towns in the region that began as a way station of the Southern Pacific Railroad. It was established in 1895 following construction of the west-side line from San Jose to Millerton in the late 1880's. Initially, the economy of the area was associated with cattle raising and crop production, mainly vegetables and grain. A plentiful water supply and railway transportation was instrumental in the expansion of agricultural activities. The vast lands surrounding Mendota are now used predominately for farming, with some of the important crops being cantaloupe, alfalfa, barley, cotton, rice, sugar beets, and various table vegetables. The Mendota Waterfowl-Management Area, a large wildlife habitat preserve, lies a few miles southeast of the City. Mendota was incorporated in 1942 and is a central shipping point for many of the agricultural products from the West Side of the San Joaquin Valley". Two State Highways (180 and 33) converge in Mendota and divide the city. The railway corridor further divides the city. Caltrans staff is leading discussions about rerouting Highway 180 so it does not divide Mendota. This will route the highway out of town and provide an off ramp in Mendota.

### Population

The Mendota Library serves residents of the City of Mendota and surrounding rural unincorporated areas. The current population of the library service area is 9,712 according to a 2001 Geographic Information Study (GIS) conducted by the GeoLib Program, Florida State University. The Fresno County Library commissioned GeoLib to determine library service area boundaries by plotting 2001 patron registration data and overlaying the data with U.S. Census 2000 tract information. Library staff verified GIS findings. The Mendota area population is expected to reach 20,000 by the year 2020 according to Mendota City and Fresno County growth estimates. The Mendota population composition typifies that of other rural communities in western Fresno County. Residents are predominately Hispanic and work in agricultural related industries. Residents are younger on average, with a median age of 25.7, compared to the Fresno County median age of 29.9. A high percentage of residents (57.8%) have less than a high school education compared to Fresno County (18.3%), and state averages (11.5%). More than 29% of adults do not have basic literacy skills in English. Socioeconomic factors associated with low educational attainment are strikingly apparent in the Mendota service area. Unemployment is 35.7%, the poverty rate is 40%, and the per capita income is only \$8,512. A spacious, state of the art facility will enable the library to expand and introduce services that will meet the "real life" needs of residents.

### Services

The Mendota Unified School District serves the City of Mendota and vicinity. The current enrollment of 2,053 is distributed among 2 elementary schools, 1 junior high school, 1 high school, one continuation school, and a community day school. In addition, the District administers a state funded preschool and a federally funded Migrant Head Start Program. Student demographic data is presented in section 4, under *School Agencies*. There are two additional preschools in the area funded through state and federal sources, and a community college satellite campus within 10 miles of Mendota. The District provides numerous support programs to assist students and their families in setting and achieving educational and future career goals. Joint venture services with the library will greatly assist the District in the continued success of traditional and support program.

A number of civic organizations serve the residents of Mendota as well as many governmental and non-profit social service agencies. Key service providers include Fresno County Library, Mendota Unified School District, Fresno County Human Service, Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC), I-5 Business Development Corridor, I-5 Social Services, Mendota Senior Center, Westside Youth and Workforce Connection. Organizations and agencies provide education, health, social services, recreation, cultural awareness, employment and career services, and government services to the residents of the Mendota area. The new facility will enable the library to strengthen its partnerships with community organizations to better serve residents.

### Economy

Mendota has traditionally been almost entirely dependent on agriculture for its economic well being, and has gained recognition as the *Cantaloupe Center of the World*. The agricultural industry is currently the largest employer in Mendota. Major businesses include Spreckles Sugar, Stamoules Produce, and Pappas Enterprises. Due to the seasonal fluctuation of available work in these firms, employment peaks during the summer and declines during winter months. Mendota Biomass Power, Ltd. is also a major local employer and provides one of the few sources of year round employment in the library service area. Other than city government functions and the Mendota Unified School District, the remaining local employment is generated by small consumer operations, including 2 grocery stores; several family owned restaurants; and a gas station/mini mart. A Burger King Franchise on the northern fringe of Mendota also employs local residents.

The City of Mendota's goal is to move from dependence on seasonal crops to more year-round operations. A key factor in this strategy is the Mendota Biomass Power, Ltd. Project that has been a significant stimulus to the local economy. Mendota Biomass generates power from agricultural and other waste products. Diversification of the local economy into non-agricultural areas is underscored by declining employment trends and a controversial proposal by a multi-county irrigation management firm, Westlands Water District, to fallow productive farmland in the area to stabilize the agricultural water supply. Communities that will be most impacted by the land retirement include Mendota and four other western Fresno County areas. The City of Mendota estimates at least 60% of city residents have a job related to farming. The need to focus on non-agricultural economic development in Mendota is consistent with the Fresno County vision and current General Plan and the future of economic growth in the San Joaquin Valley.

In a report entitled *The Economic Future of the San Joaquin Valley* prepared by the Great Valley Center in 2000, researchers conclude, "The San Joaquin Valley can and must join the new economy. The Valley needs to evolve toward high-value manufacturing and service activities that compete on new economy factors: innovation, speed, global, perspective, knowledge, networks, flexibility and technology. Employment in these outward oriented, innovation-based industries must become a more dominant driver of employment and revenue in the San Joaquin Valley." The report makes strategic recommendations to build an innovative economic base. The following strategic recommendations are areas that have strong implications in the Mendota Library service area and were identified as key needs by the community.

- **Cluster Networks.** Create intermediary institutions, personal relationships, and electronic networks that expedite collaborative partnerships among cluster companies, education institutions, and other organizations to maximize global market opportunities.

- **Innovative Workforce.** From K-12 through community colleges and universities, develop a computer and information-technology literate workforce and people capable of learning throughout their lifetimes. Increase collaboration between the education and training communities and cluster companies.
- **Entrepreneurship.** Cultivate innovation economy entrepreneurs, and next-generation business leadership. Create the places, other resources and culture that encourage people to recognize business opportunity and exploit it.
- **Regional Identity.** Shift mind-sets in and outside the region toward a positive vision of the future and the behavior change necessary to achieve it. Cultivate a regional identity that fits with both the regions' traditional history and strong future promise and that overcomes misperceptions about limited opportunities. (Source: [www.greatvalley.org](http://www.greatvalley.org))

### Growth

The Mendota Library service area population of 9,712 increased by 62% since the 1980 census. A projected population of 20,000 by the year 2020 represents 106% overall population growth. The City of Mendota has realized steady growth in land development since its 1991 general plan update. The Mendota High School (pictured below) was completed in 1993 and is adjacent to the future new library site. Location of the new public library near the high school will enhance joint venture functions such as a computer center, homework center and career services. In July 1998, The Fresno County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) approved the City of Mendota's request to annex land for the possible site of a new, 1500 bed federal prison. The site is approximately 370 acres and is located one mile south of city limits, and east of Highway 33. The project, if funded, will provide a significant stimulus to the local economy by adding as many as 500 jobs, boosting business development and residual income for existing businesses. In April 2002, ground was broken for a new, 81 unit affordable housing project in North Mendota. The new housing project, Villages at Mendota I, is located northeast of the intersection of Bass Avenue and State Highway 33, approximately one mile from the new library site. City Council member Joseph Amador stated "This project will bring much needed affordable housing to the City of Mendota". Construction of a new Water System Improvement Project, part of an initiative to improve city infrastructures, was completed in January 2003. Though it is on the edge of current development, future city plans place the new library site at the center of new housing and proposed economic development.

The property developer hopes the library project will attract other County and State service agencies so library users can combine trips for shopping and services. A new library facility with space for expansion will enable the library to meet immediate and future needs of the service area population.





## 6 a. Executive Summary

### Analysis of Library Service Needs

The Mendota Library Plan of Service has been developed directly from the needs assessment. Library staff elicited input from the community regarding service needs through a variety of methods, including public meetings, presentations, meetings and interviews with key leaders, school district officials and community organizations, formal surveys and community outreach. In addition, library staff received valuable feedback from informal comments and interaction with residents of all ages. The findings of the community needs assessment have been interpreted in light of existing and projected service indicators, use patterns, and community demographics.

The primary service needs that were consistently identified throughout the needs assessment process can be divided into three elements: the **Facility**, **Collections** and **Services** offered by the library. Community residents, organizations and agencies want a library facility with space to meet their complex needs. A library building that is functional, accessible and makes an architectural statement about the culture and vision of the community is a need that was expressed by the community. Residents want a multi purpose facility that will accommodate a variety of services, including multiple public computers, children and young adults activities, an expanded Spanish language collection, study and tutoring, reading, confidential meetings, and a large meeting room for programs and events. The exterior building components will meet social, recreation and human service needs of residents. Important exterior elements include a covered outdoor area with seating; a patio to extend the meeting room for large or evening events; and increased parking and exterior space to offer other County services such as mobile medical, dental and library services. Other important building features include pedestrian paths, a bicycle rack, and a water element.

Mendota residents want an extensive collection that appeals to a broad range of interests, abilities and learning needs. Circulation of library materials and use patterns demonstrate a need for popular materials and those that support formal education and learning. Community resources that support the needs and interests of children and young adults are a top priority among Mendota residents. The new library will respond with a maximum collection of 46,000 items, almost 5 times larger than the current collection. There will be ample shelf space for multiple copies of high demand items such as children's and young adult titles and audiovisual formats. Spanish is the primary language spoken by the majority of Mendota residents. The existing Spanish language collection is inadequate to support community demand. The library will meet the needs of Spanish speakers through an extensive collection of materials that celebrates the rich Hispanic cultures in the community. Other special collections specific to the needs of Mendota residents include homework resources, a literacy collection, job and career resources, and local history materials.

The services that will be implemented in the new library address the complex socio-economic concerns of Mendota residents identified during the needs assessment. The importance of strengthening the library's cooperative relationship with the Mendota Unified School District was a repeated theme throughout discussions with school district staff, parents, and youth advocates. The needs of students will be addressed through resources and collections that support their formal education. **Homework assistance** and tutors, information literacy classes, study space and access to computers afterschool and on weekends will be provided. **Literacy** tutoring and instruction for children and adults will help residents acquire or improve basic skills in reading and writing English and in math. Basic literacy is vital to a better quality of life for Mendota residents. Self-guided and tutor assisted English as a second language (ESL) instruction will be offered to English learners. **Literacy Outreach** services targeting young children and families will be offered to promote literacy in the home. **Computer Access** and information literacy instruction is another service need that will be addressed in the new library.

Access to the latest computer technology will help residents gain skills and knowledge to succeed in school, at home, at work and in the community. The library will provide **Job and Career** services in the new library through partnerships with County, State and local employment service providers to help unemployed and displaced workers find jobs. Career and job services will assist residents with basic skill assessment and development, and connect with job training programs and potential employers.

The new Mendota Library will respond to the expressed needs of residents through 9 service responses that define the resources and activities the library will provide.

Formal Learning Support The library will help students achieve by providing the resources they need to succeed. Resources include study areas, print and electronic resources, trained staff and tutors, information literacy instruction, and opportunities for learning enrichment and career exploration. The specific needs of K-12 students will be addressed through the joint venture activities provided by the library and school district.

Information Literacy The library will provide a state of the art computer center for use by Mendota residents of all ages. Technology enhancements will include 20 computers, a full array of software and subscription databases to compliment print resources. Instruction in appropriate use of library resources will respond to information literacy needs. Meeting and training areas will be equipped with multimedia tools to facilitate effective learning and instruction.

Basic Literacy Mendota residents of all ages will have available to them learning environments, specialized materials and access to trained tutors to help them reach their literacy goals. Focused resources and activities will promote and support family literacy, an important need in Mendota.

Business and Career Information The Mendota Library will provide resources and services to help residents find employment, develop business opportunities, and make college and career choices. This response will address the need for job skills and business development.

Cultural Awareness The Mendota Library will respond to the needs of Spanish speaking residents through in-depth Spanish language collections, electronic resources and programs that reflect the cultural heritage of the library service area population. Spanish collections will be prominently placed throughout the library. All signage and library information will be in English and Spanish. Bilingual staff will guide residents through use of print and electronic resources.

General Information Mendota residents of all ages will have convenient access to trained staff and current and authoritative information in varied formats to meet their needs. Information and referral to service agencies will be provided as identified during the needs assessment.

Current Topics and Titles This service response will meet the demand for popular fiction, non-fiction and other resources on a wide array of subjects. Programs for children and teens will promote reading as a recreational activity and encourage life long learning.

Life Long Learning The Mendota Library will provide an accessible collection of materials on a broad range of subjects to support continued personal growth and development. Programs on such topics as parenting, local history and other areas of interest will be provided.

Commons The Mendota Library will provide an environment for residents to meet and interact with others in the community through a variety of gathering spaces. Space for meetings, events, workshops, conferences, community information and copy services will be provided.

## **6 b. Analysis of the Library Service Needs**

A new Library with space to provide a variety of services is an important quality of life need for Mendota residents. The Mendota Library Service Area is a rural community located some 35 miles west of the Fresno Metropolitan Area. More than 93% of the population is of Hispanic or Latino descent. Immigrants from Mexico and Central America comprise a large segment of the Mendota population. The dominant occupation of community residents is farm or agricultural labor (more than 40%). A large portion of the population live a migrant life style in search of year round employment. Poverty, limited education and English language skills magnify the geographical isolation faced by the majority of Mendota residents. The current library site was built in 1956. The inadequate size, 960 square feet, cannot accommodate the complex educational, social and recreational service needs identified during the Mendota Community Needs Assessment. Shortage of space and the inability to expand at the current site significantly limits immediate and future library service delivery. The overwhelming majority of community residents want a library facility that will meet their "real life" needs. Input from key leaders, school district staff and families, government officials, organizations, and residents enabled library staff to identify the valued and important needs of the community and translate those needs into library service responses and facility design.

### Public Computers

The library currently provides 4 computer workstations for the public. During 2002, Mendota recorded 5,963 computer use sessions, representing 1,491 sessions per computer. Low-income levels of most residents prohibit the purchase of a computer for the home. The library provides the only access in the community for the majority of adult residents. Students have only limited access during school hours. The new library will provide a computer center with 10 public computers and additional workstations throughout the library. Study, conference and meeting areas will be equipped with lap top computer and multimedia presentation capabilities. All computers will have Internet connectivity and be equipped with a full array of productivity software, including word processing, spreadsheet and/or presentation programs. Links on library web pages will lead patrons to authoritative Internet sites on a broad range of subjects, and to a full accompaniment of subscription databases. Library staff will provide computer and information literacy classes in English and Spanish for all ages. Special attention will be given to guiding Spanish speaking patrons through carefully selected links on the Internet and subscription databases that provide content in Spanish. Computer accessories will include at least one high-speed central networked printer with black and white or color print options, scheduling and print management software. The software will enable staff to devote more time to direct customer service through workload reductions in managing computer functions.

### More Books and Audio-Visual Materials

The community placed a high priority on expanding the library collection to meet the varied needs, abilities and interests of the community. The current collection size is 9,563 items to serve a population of 9,712 (less than 1 item per capita). The library's goal is to provide a total collection of 46,000 items to meet the needs of the projected 2020 population of 20,000. The projected collection size will conform to the library's standard of 2.3 items per capita. Circulation increased 17% from 2001 to 2002 and in-house use increased 655%. These indicators suggest a high demand for library materials in the Mendota community. The current facility cannot support substantial expansion of the collection. The community needs assessment identified a particular need for Spanish language materials for all ages, children's and young adult materials, literacy materials, job and career information, large print and audiovisual formats.

### Spanish language Materials

The population in Mendota is approximately 93% Hispanic. An estimated 30% of adults do not read or speak English, and more than 70% of Mendota Unified School District students have limited English language proficiency. High use of the Spanish language collection is evident by a more than 93% overall increase in circulation of these materials from 2001 to 2002. The current library facility cannot support the demand. Spanish language collections will be provided for each age group in the community, and will be placed prominently throughout the new library. All signage and directional information will be in both Spanish and English. The adult Spanish collection will comprise at least 50% of the total adult collection. A variety of print and non-print titles will be selected to meet the varied interests and abilities of Mendota residents. Bilingual library staff will provide training and workshops on use of Spanish language resources, and programs that celebrate the rich Hispanic cultures in the Mendota community will be offered.

### Literacy Services

A literacy center with tutoring and conference areas, and literacy resources in print and non-print formats is an important need expressed by Mendota residents. A high percentage of adults in the community have very limited English language and reading skills. More than 57% of adults have less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education. In addition, more than 70% of students in the Mendota Unified School District are English learners. Only 37% of district students scored above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the 2002 Stanford 9 reading test. Literacy is a critical life skill that has a significant impact on employment opportunities, income and overall quality of life. The new library will provide a family literacy center with collections programs and services for self guided or tutor assisted learning. Computers with electronic resources, including ESL software and trained tutors and staff, will help residents of all ages meet their literacy goals. Materials will focus on reading and writing English, and developing basic math and lifelong learning skills. Literacy Outreach services will be provided to children and adults through Fresno County Library, Families for Literacy services.

### More Support for Students

The Mendota Library is very popular among the student population. Library use by students comprises at least 60% of total use in Mendota as shown by such indicators as circulation, computer use, in-house use and program data. Community leaders and parents want the library to empower students with tools for success by providing a supportive environment and more resources that meet their academic needs. The current library facility does not have space to expand services to students. The new library facility will provide dedicated study space and library computers to meet the homework and research needs of students. A core collection of formal education support materials that conform to California K-12 content standards will be provided. The Mendota Unified School District will provide authorized textbooks for in-house use by District students. Real-time homework assistance will be available through library computers, and students will have access to age and grade level appropriate homework sites through the library web pages. Library staff will develop pathfinders and other tools to guide students through use of print and electronic resources. Tutors paid by the District and volunteers will assist K-12 students with homework and study needs. Computer skills and information literacy classes, taught by library staff, will be offered to students and the community at large.

Adult students will have access to study space, volunteer tutor assistance, and a wide array of reference resources in both print and electronic formats to meet their academic needs. Library staff will guide adult students through use of in-house resources, and provide referrals to the Central Library for resources, which are not available locally.

### More Services to help K-12 Students

This area will enable the library to expand its services to K-12 students through collaborative activities with the Mendota Unified School District. The Library and District partnership will extend formal learning beyond the school campus and create additional opportunities for learning enrichment as defined during the community needs assessment. Joint venture services developed with the District will address formal education needs include:

- Study and tutoring areas in the library
- Computers equipped with Internet and productivity software
- Internet links to appropriate age and grade level homework sites
- Subscription databases to facilitate research
- Classes in computer and Information literacy
- Tutors in reading, math and literacy (both paid by the school district and volunteers)
- Homework collection, including K-12 textbooks
- Tutors for homework and study (both paid by the school district and volunteers)
- College and career collection and workshops
- Career exploration opportunities for students
- Remote access to school and library databases
- Improved communication between library and school staff to better serve students
- School and library staff in-service training
- Enrichment and life long learning opportunities
  - Fine Arts enrichment program offered by the school district at the library
  - Outreach to kindergarten, teen and adult students
  - Parent education classes

### Services for Children and Young Adults

More than one-third of Mendota's population is under 20 years of age. At least 60% of Mendota library users are children and teens. Circulation and in-house use of library resources increased 17% and 655% respectively as a result of high demand by children and teens. Mendota leaders and residents placed a high priority on services for children and teens to provide additional educational opportunities and a positive environment for recreational and social activities. The new library will offer designated spaces for children and teens. Age and content appropriate library materials in many formats will meet the academic, recreational and co-curricular interests of children, young adults, parents, caregivers and school staff. The collection will also include materials that focus on the needs of children with physical and developmental disabilities. Library staff will provide training and guidance in use of electronic and print resources. Computers, listening stations and comfortable seating will provide an inviting, neutral, environment for youth to study, meet, or just "hang out". The Children's area will offer ample space for enrichment programs, a valued need expressed by parents, school staff, and community youth advocates.

### Job and Career Resources

The average unemployment rate in Mendota was more than 35% in 2000, and the per capita income was less than \$9,000. High unemployment and low income can be attributed to the seasonal nature of work in the area's predominate industry (agriculture), coupled with few employment options for a largely unskilled labor force. The need for Mendota residents to find work in industries other than agriculture is underscored by the proposed retirement of productive agricultural land in the area. Community leaders and residents identified a critical need for resources and training that will assist residents in finding sustainable employment and exploring diverse career options.

A bilingual collection related to jobs and careers will be developed and maintained in the new library. Materials in both print and non-print formats will reflect the varied skill and ability levels of residents. Audiovisual formats will be purchased to enhance learning, especially for residents with limited literacy skills.

Computer resources will guide residents through skill and interest assessment, job training requirements and job search strategies. High School Equivalency, GED and sample test books for a variety of jobs will be included in the collection. Trained library staff will provide computer literacy classes and instruction in use of productivity software to help residents gain new skills required for jobs in the modern work place. All instruction will be conducted in both English and Spanish. Materials on college and career choices for teens will be provided as well as outreach programs designed to introduce young adults and their parents to college and vocational school requirements and financial aid opportunities. The library will also provide career exploration opportunities for teens through work/study and other joint venture activities with the Mendota Unified School District.

The Fresno County Library will partner with other agencies in the community to provide Mendota residents with job and career services. The library has established a collaborative relationship with the Fresno County Workforce Investment Board, Workforce-Connection and the One-Stop Employment Center in Fresno to become a funded partner for employment services during fiscal year 2002-2003 and beyond. The Workforce Investment Board coordinates and funds the job and career services activities of 16 different Fresno County organizations with 200 million dollars received through the Workforce Investment Act. Workforce agencies provide career services to youth, low-income adults and displaced workers. John Kallenberg, County Librarians and Bernice Kao, Job/Career Specialist Librarian met in early February 2003 to discuss a partnership between Workforce and the library that would provide job services and resources at library sites. Service options will include training in job search strategies taught by Mrs. Kao and conference space at library sites for career counselors and employers to meet with job seekers. The library will also partner with employment service agencies to offer career exploration opportunities to adult residents. Funding will also be available for library materials, including computer software. Services and funding will be provided in outlying libraries including Mendota.

As a 2003 Urban Libraries Executive Leadership Fellow, the librarian supervisor for the Mendota service area will be involved in building broad based community partnerships with government, business leaders and community leaders to address employment and business development issues in western Fresno County communities resulting from proposed agricultural land retirement.

#### Community Meeting Place

Mendota residents identified a need for building elements that reflect the culture and vision of the community and lend themselves to social interaction, cultural events and access to service providers. Local meeting space is limited to a small City Hall conference room or the high school cafeteria when available. Community parks currently provides the only public space for residents to meet and socialize outdoors. Fresno County Human Services uses a dirt lot to provide mobile medical and dental services to residents. There is no space at the current library site to house the literacy outreach bookmobile or provide literacy services. The back of a single faced section of picture book shelving serves as the community bulletin board. The new library will provide a multi-purpose meeting room to accommodate community events, programs, and workshops or group meetings.

A patio will extend the meeting room space for large or evening events. Conference/study rooms will accommodate study groups, one-on-one tutoring or meetings with service providers. The new building will provide ample space to post flyers and community information and to display brochures. An exterior plaza will invite community residents to interact with friends and family and provide joint access to County medical and library services.

#### More Services for Seniors

The needs assessment demonstrated that the senior population is under served in Mendota. Large print books are very popular among Mendota seniors. The large print collection in the current library is limited to 3 shelves of books that rotate every 2 months to provide fresh selections. The library does not have space to expand the collection to meet demand. Mendota seniors are interested in preserving the history and culture of the community dating back to the indigenous Yokut Indian Tribes. There is no space in the current library to develop, display and promote a collection to meet this need. The new library will provide ample shelf space for a permanent collection of large print books, and space for local history materials. There is no separation between spaces in the library's small public service area. Seniors generally use the library early in the day to avoid a crowded, noisy library when children arrive after school. Library staff currently offers a basic computer literacy class for seniors in Mendota. The classes are very popular and there is a waiting list for service. Computer classes must be held after the library closes and enrollment in each session is limited to the number of available computers (four). A quiet room away from high traffic areas will provide a space for seniors and other residents to read periodicals or browse new materials. Computer class offerings will be expanded to include e-mail, Internet searching and other areas of interest. Life long learning programs will also be offered on topics of interest to seniors as well as volunteer opportunities in the library.

#### Access for the Disabled

Residents of Mendota want a library facility and services that are accessible to all members of the community. The entrance to the existing library is too narrow for wheel chair access. Patrons who use a wheel chair are currently served from in front of the library building which, limits access to library resources and undermines the dignity of our valued patrons. All physical aspects and furnishing of the new Mendota Library will meet or exceed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, including entrance and exits, aisle space, restrooms, and public service and seating areas.

Fresno County Library offers services to patrons countywide with visual and physical disabilities through the Talking Book Library for the Blind (TBLB). TBLB is a sub-regional library of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) and provides both mail and in-person talking book services to residents of Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties. TBLB's collection includes specially formatted audio books, talking book machines, and Braille books and magazines. In addition TBLB offers free subscription services to 50 local, State and national newspapers through Fresno Access News. Deaf residents may access the library through the California Relay Service (CRS). Assisted Listening Systems are available for Neighborhood libraries to borrow as needed to serve patrons with hearing impairments. A sign language interpreter is provided by Fresno County Library upon request for library programs and events.

## **7 a. Executive Summary**

### **Service Limitations of Existing Facilities**

The Mendota Library was established in 1919, in a building rented by the County. The Library has occupied a series of rented, substandard buildings throughout its history, including a cabin located in an auto court, and a garage. In 1956 the library moved to its current site which was built by a private individual for library functions. The building is approximately 960 square feet with concrete block walls, swamp and window air conditioning and a stand-alone gas stove.

#### Collections

The current collection size of 9,563 serves a total service area population of 9,712. The collection size represents less than 1 item per capita. The Mendota Library collection has nearly tripled since the 1998 passage of Measure B, a sales tax initiative to fund library services. Library fiscal year data for 2001/2002 shows a 17% overall circulation increase over the previous year, and a 655% increase in library in-house use.

The small interior space limits further collection growth needed to meet the community's demand for library materials. The interior space is very cramped and allows no space to add the quantity and dimensions of shelving needed to properly display and merchandize the collection. Use of Spanish language materials, multimedia formats, reference and children's materials increased by more than 90% collectively during F/Y 2001/2002 from the previous year yet, there is no room for expansion. In addition, there is no space to introduce the special collections defined by the needs assessment, including literacy, homework and job and career resources.

#### Readers' seating

The Mendota Library has a total of 14 readers' seats. Seating is distributed among 4 computer workstations, and three readers' tables. There is no children's program area or space for group study. In a space with a maximum of 14 seats, it is not uncommon for more than 60 people to attend a program during the summer reading season. There is no space for lounge seating to accommodate residents who may want to browse materials or read periodicals.

#### Staff offices, workstations, and visual supervision

The library is confined to a very small space that cannot accommodate staff offices and work areas. There is one service desk, which functions as the circulation/information desk and the staff work area. There is one staff workstation on the service desk that is used for public service and administrative functions. Administrative work is often completed between assisting patrons with questions, checking out materials and other public service duties. Lack of separate workstations for public service functions and administrative tasks cause many delays and seriously impacts efficiency and customer service. Staff is able to see the small public service area from the library service/circulation desk. However, there is no visual field to the small back room that houses the building's only restroom and the telecommunications equipment.

The library building is too small for a staff lounge or rest area, and does not have a staff workroom for shipping and receiving, sorting materials, and administrative tasks. It is significant challenges for staff to serve patrons, unpack and sort delivered items and perform other office duties in the public service area.



## Technology

There are only four public access computers and one staff computer in the Mendota Library. The public use computers are in high demand, logging a total of 5,963 use sessions during 2002. In addition, there is a networked computer printer and desktop photocopier available in the library. The small size and poor infrastructure of the building limits the library's ability to increase access to computer technology in Mendota. The minimal separation between public workstations does not provide library patrons with an adequate work surface nor privacy. Telecommunications equipment is housed on exposed shelving in the tiny, multipurpose back room area. The ceiling above the equipment is prone to water leaks during the rainy season, which presents the risk of serious damage and disruption of electronic services.

## Meeting rooms

There is no meeting room available at the current facility. The library offers summer and special programs to children and scheduled class visits to the library as part of on-going community outreach and promotion of library services. The current library does not have any meeting or programming spaces due to its small size. It is not uncommon for more than 40 people to squeeze into the library for a summer program. Class visits to the library must be carefully scheduled during off peak or closed hours, to accommodate group and daily activities simultaneously. The library receives many requests from the community to hold meetings and other activities, but cannot meet this need in the existing space.

## Special purpose

There are no special purpose areas in the library. All services take place in the small, congested public service area. The community identified a great need for tutoring and study spaces for children and adults. Designated computer and quiet reading spaces are also important service elements identified during the community needs assessment. The library cannot meet these needs at the current site.

Mendota residents want outdoor spaces that lend themselves to social interaction and waiting areas to meet with other service providers at the library. There is no space for notices, announcements or brochures about community events and organizations. A need to expand photocopy services in the community was identified through the needs assessment but cannot be met in the current building. The new Mendota Library will provide the building elements to address these valued service amenities.

## Services needed but Unavailable

Services that are needed at the Mendota Library but currently unavailable include:

- Literacy tutoring, resources and outreach
- In-depth collection and resources for Spanish speakers
- Adequate library collection to meet demand
- Services that are currently not available at the Mendota Library include:
  - Regularly scheduled programs for children, young adults and seniors
  - Computer and information literacy training
  - Job and career workshops and services
  - Homework assistance and designated homework resources
  - Quiet study space and reading areas
  - Meeting, gathering and conference spaces
  - Computer and copy centers
  - Multimedia tools and presentation capability

## 7 b. Service Limitations of Existing Library Facilities

The Mendota Library was established in 1919, in a building rented by the County. The Library has occupied a series of rented, substandard buildings throughout its history, including a cabin located in an auto court, and a garage. In 1956 the library moved to its current site which was built by a private individual for library functions. The building is approximately 960 square feet with concrete block walls, swamp and window air conditioning and a stand-alone gas stove.

### Collections

Mendota Library Collection 2001-2002

Collection Designation	Number of Items
Children's Books	4545
Adult/Young Adult Books	3737
Total Books Held	8282
Children's Audio	202
Adult/Young Adult Audio	107
Total Audio	309
Children's Video	226
Adult/Young Adult Video	231
Total Video	457
Children's Compact Disc	51
Adult/Young Adult Compact Disc	191
Total Compact Disc	242
Equipment and Misc.	273
Total Holdings	9563



The current collection of 9,563 items, presented above, serves a total population of 9,712 representing less than 1 item per capita. The Fresno County Library collection standard for rural Neighborhoods is 2.3 items per capita. Although the collection size has almost tripled since passage of Measure B in 1998, continued growth is severely limited by size and shelf capacity of the current facility. Economic use of the limited shelf space is achieved through constant weeding and rotation of library materials. The interior space is very cramped and allows no space to add the quantity and dimensions of shelving needed to display and merchandize the collection. The Children's collection is contained on shelving that has an 8" depth. Standard shelving depth for children's non-fiction is 10" and 12" depth for picture books. The multi-media collections (videos, CDs, audio books, media kits) are housed either on cramped spinners or shelving that is not sized to accommodate these formats. Adult and young adult magazines and newspapers are housed on shelving originally designed for the reference collection. There is no space to add or expand special collections such as literacy, homework, careers and large print.

## Mendota Collection-- Circulation Percentage of Increase From FY 2000/01 to FY 2001/02

### Adult/Young Adult

Audiocassettes	420.0%
Audiobooks	383.3%
Large Type	200.0%
Spanish Videos	192.2%
Compact Discs	158.7%
Reference	80.6%
New Books	60.2%

Spanish Fiction	40.4%
Test Preparation Books	35.0%
Fiction & Nonfiction (English)	34.2%

### Children

Reference	800.0%
Fiction, Paperback	507.8%
Teen Fiction	122.2%
Biography	90.2%
Book & Cassette	84.0%
Audio Books	70.7%
Videos	65.1%
Spanish Fiction	49.5%
Fiction & Nonfiction (English)	28.0%

Fiscal year 2001-2002 circulation increased 17% overall from the previous fiscal year at the Mendota Library. In-house use increased 655% during the same period. The non-fiction collections are well used by students to support homework and study needs. Mendota circulation data (presented above) illustrates the high demand for library materials, and the key collection areas in greatest demand by residents. Circulation of Spanish language collections, multimedia formats, Reference and Children's materials increased dramatically yet there is no room for expansion. Collection growth to meet the immediate and future needs of Mendota residents cannot be achieved in the current facility.

### Readers' seating

There are a total of 14 reader's seats in the Mendota Library. Seating is distributed among 4 computer workstations, 2 tables in the Adult/Young Adult area, and 1 table in the Children's area. When programs or class visits are held, tables are moved and participants sit on the floor, as there is no seating to accommodate this use. In a space with a maximum of 14 seats and no programming area, it is not unusual for more than 40 people to attend children's programs during the summer reading season. There is no space for lounge seating to accommodate residents who want to browse periodicals or popular materials while in the library.



### Staff offices, workstations and visual supervision

There is one service desk and workstation in the library. The space functions as the circulation/information area, and staff work area. A library book truck adjacent to the service desk, provides storage for office supplies. A small wooden typing table is used to extend the public/staff service desk. In this small space, staff can visually supervise all services from the circulation/information desk.

There is no visual field to the small back room area, which houses the restroom and telecommunications equipment. There is no staff workspace to unpack or sort books and other items delivered to the library from headquarters. Shipping and receiving tasks are performed at the public service desk, often between patron transactions. The congestion in this very small space is a barrier to service. It is a challenge for staff to check-in and out materials, sort items to be re-shelved, unpack books and assist patrons in such a small area. The building provides no enclosed office space for confidential discussions with patrons or other staff.

There is a small space in the back of the library, which functions as a storage area, telecommunications room and housing for the building's only restroom. The building does not have a staff lounge or rest area. Staff breaks are taken in the public area between patron transactions. In addition, there is no drinking fountain for staff or public use. Staff provides bottled drinking water for personal use and for the public if requested.

### Technology

There are four public access computers and one staff workstation in the Mendota Library. The library also provides a desktop photocopier and networked computer printer. Three public computers are housed on a converted reading table, which does not meet ADA or ergonomic standards. The fourth workstation is in the center of the room near the Children's area. The Fresno County Library has instituted a four-year replacement program for all computers owned by the system. The public and staff computers in Mendota were replaced with new equipment in 2002. The public computers are in high demand logging a total of 5,963 use sessions (1 half hour each) during 2002. Total use represents 1,491 sessions per computer. The minimal separation between public workstations does not provide adequate workspace or privacy. Classes in computer literacy are popular and must be offered after the library closes due to the inadequate number of workstations and size of the facility. There is one networked printer and a desktop photocopier in the library. Staff must serve library patrons and complete administrative functions from the one staff workstation at the service desk. The building's small size and poor infrastructure limits the library's ability to provide additional computers to meet community demand. In the summer, power is inadequate to operate the two coolers, the computers, the fan and the copy machine simultaneously which, cause disruptions in service.

Telecommunications equipment is housed on exposed shelving in the tiny back room near the only restroom. There is no secure area to house this equipment. The ceiling above the telecommunications area is prone to water leaks during the rainy season, which presents the risk of serious damage and disruption in electronic services.





## Meeting Rooms

There is no meeting room at this facility. When special programs are held during the annual summer reading initiative, it is not unusual for more than 40 people to squeeze into the library. Class visits to the library and other programs must be carefully scheduled during off peak or closed hours, as there is no space to accommodate group and on going library services simultaneously. During the 2001/2002 fiscal year, the Mendota Library hosted 9 class visits to the library, 8 summer programs for children and young adults, 6 computer literacy classes, and 1 family program. The library receives many requests from the community to hold meetings or other functions in the current facility but cannot meet this need for service due to lack of space, seating and occupancy requirements. The library recently declined a request from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) to provide income tax preparation assistance to residents in the library due to space limitations.

## Special Purpose

The community expressed great need for a spacious library interior that will accommodate multiple public computers, space for tutoring and study, a quiet area in the library for reading, and space for group meetings. In addition, the need for expanded photocopy services and space to distribute community information was requested by the community. The current 960 square foot library cannot accommodate these services. Mendota residents want outdoor spaces that lend themselves to social interaction, and provide a comfortable area to wait for scheduled appointments with other service providers at the library. The current facility does not have outdoor service areas. Parents and older siblings often read to young children under a tree adjacent to the Mendota Library (pictured below) during spring and summer months, or wait for county mobile medical services provided on a dirt lot near the library.



## Library Services Needed but not Available

**Public library services** needed but currently unavailable include, In-depth literacy resources, tutoring and outreach services, adequate collections to meet demand, adequate computers and electronic resources, homework assistance and study spaces, meeting spaces, regular programs for children, teens and adults, information literacy instruction, job and career resources.

**School library services** needed but currently unavailable include, adequate library collections to support student needs, after school access to computers and study space, computer and information literacy instruction, in-depth professional expertise in library resources and services (includes knowledge of electronic resources), year round learning enrichment programs.

## **8 a. Executive Summary**

### **Physical Limitations of Existing Library Facilities**

The existing Mendota Library is inadequate to meet the needs of the community it serves. Shortage of space and the inability to expand at the current site limits the development of an adequate collection and services. The lack of a meeting space also limits programs and use by the community. Electrical and communications limitations prevent the library from providing the extent of modern services necessary for complete operation. A review of specific deficiencies follows:

#### Structural

The existing library is 960 square feet and is located adjacent to City Hall in Mendota, California. The structure was constructed in 1956 and the library has been the only occupant. The structure is single story masonry construction. The masonry walls appear to have minimal reinforcing and insulation. There are numerous cracks in the walls, especially around openings. There are signs of water leakage through the walls and edges of the roof, which have resulted in damage to surrounding library materials. Existing shelving has minimal bracing and could not withstand expected seismic events.

#### Energy conservation

The existing facility does not comply with California Title 24 energy standards and would take extensive renovations in order to comply. Glazing is all single glass. Other than the possibility of thin insulation board added to the roof during past roofing projects, there is no insulation in the walls or roof/ceiling systems. Bare fluorescent tubes mounted to the ceiling provide general lighting. Window air conditioning units mounted through the masonry walls provide air conditioning. A floor mounted gas heater vented through the exterior wall provides heating. Neither the air conditioning nor the heating is adequate to provide year round comfort or to protect the collections and equipment.

#### Health and safety

There is evidence of materials deteriorating from water leakage with the resulting potential for mold in the walls. Due to the age of the structure and materials observed, asbestos containing materials and lead-based paint will be found. The damage from water leakage will increase the likelihood that asbestos or lead will be released. The exterior doors have metal security grilles but there is no security system in the building. The heating system does not provide fresh air into the building. A window provides ventilation of the toilet room (if open).

#### Disabled access

The current facilities do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act or California Title 24 accessibility requirements. Doors do not comply with accessibility requirements. The single restroom cannot be adapted and would have to be totally replaced with separate restrooms for each sex. This construction would result in loss of approximately ten percent of the usable library space. There are no accessible parking spaces for the library.

#### Acoustics

The facility is one open room with mostly hard surfaces on the walls and ceiling. Due to the small area and hard surfaces, there are no quiet areas for reading or studying without being aware of all of the other activities in the building. There is no acoustical separation between an adult seeking quiet reading and children's activities.

### Space flexibility/expandability

The current facility occupies the entire building and there is not sufficient room on the site to expand the building. The small size of available space (960 square feet verses 12,000+ square feet for the new facility) limits the layout and types of services that can be provided in the current facility.

### Functional spatial relationships

The existing space is approximately twenty feet wide by forty-five feet deep. The small size limits the layout of the spaces and eliminates the ability to create private, noise controlled areas.

### Site

The site is in the existing downtown area. There is no dedicated parking for the library and no place to have outdoor activities. The drainage around the building is not adequate to prevent water from collecting adjacent to the building. The rear door has a small landing that is lower than the surrounding grassed area and allows water to enter under the rear door.

### Any other considerations

Electrical and communication systems in the building are inadequate for the extensive use of computers and related equipment now necessary for library service delivery. The building's small size and poor infrastructure limits the library's ability to provide additional computers, photocopy and audiovisual services to meet community demand. In the summer, power is inadequate to operate the two coolers, the computers, the fan and the copy machine simultaneously which, cause disruptions in service.

## 8 b. Physical Limitations of Existing Library Facilities

The existing library building is inadequate to meet the current and future community needs that were identified during the Mendota Community Needs Assessment. The lack of existing space and inability to expand at the current location limits the library's ability to provide the collections, services, programs and technology that are important elements of service. Key physical limitations relative to community needs include lack of programming, study and meeting spaces; lack of space to house an expanded library collection; and lack of space to house an adequate number of public computer workstations.

### Structural

The Mendota Neighborhood Library is housed in a structure that was built in 1956. The building is approximately 960 square feet with concrete block walls, swamp and window air conditioning, and a stand-alone gas stove. The masonry walls appear to have minimal reinforcement and insulation. Numerous cracks are apparent in the walls especially around the openings. There are signs of water leakage through the walls and ceiling, which have resulted in damage to library materials. The formation of mold from water leakage is apparent on the ceiling as well.



### Energy conservation

The existing facility does not meet California Title 24 energy standards and would take extensive renovations in order to comply. The windows are all single glazed, which diminishes energy efficiency. Other than the possibility of thin insulation board added to the roof during past roofing projects, there is no insulation in the walls or roof/ceiling systems. Bare fluorescent tubes mounted to the ceiling provide general lighting.



Window air conditioning units mounted through masonry wall cools the building along with 2 box fans strategically placed for cross ventilation. Prior to installation of the cooling units in 1999-2000, the room temperature during hot summer months often exceeds 95 degrees resulting in disruption of services and even closure. The floor mounted gas heater vented through the exterior wall provides heating. The outdated furnace heats only the immediate area, which makes the building uncomfortably cold for staff and patrons during winter months. In addition, the close proximity of the furnace to library materials, office supplies, and computers is a significant safety concern. Neither the air conditioning nor the heating is adequate to provide year round comfort or protect library materials and computer equipment.



### Health and safety

There is evidence of structural deterioration from water leakage with the resulting potential of mold in the walls. Due to the age of the structure and materials observed, asbestos containing materials and lead-based paint will be found. The damage from water leakage will increase the likelihood that asbestos or lead will be released resulting in significant health risks to staff and patrons. The building has no water heater. Patrons and staff must share a single restroom that does not have hot water to wash their hands. Ventilation in the restroom is provided by a window (if opened), and the heating system does not allow fresh air into the building. The exterior doors have metal security grilles but there is no security system in the building.



### Disabled access

The current library facility does not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or California Title 24 accessibility requirements. Doors do not comply with accessibility requirements which, limits the library's ability to serve residents with mobility and other physical challenges. Library patrons who use a wheelchair are currently served from outside of the library building. The single restroom cannot be adapted and would result in loss of approximately ten percent of the usable library space. There are no accessible parking spaces for library patrons. Patrons typically must park on the City Street in front of the library building. Parking in the City Hall parking lot next door is restricted to "City Business Only".

### Acoustics

The facility is one open room with primarily hard surfaces on the walls and ceiling. Due to space constraints and hard surfaces, the noise level is high when the library is crowded with children after school and on Saturday. The noise level is magnified during the summer when programs are in session and the air conditioning units are turned on to cool the room. There are no quiet areas for reading or studying, and no acoustical separation between adults wanting a quiet space to read and children's activities. Typically, older adults use the library during school hours to avoid the crowd and noise during the late afternoon. Good acoustics are essential to accommodate the varied service needs of Mendota residents.

### Space flexibility/ expandability

The library currently occupies the entire building and there is not sufficient room on the site for expansion. The small size of usable space (960 square feet verses more than 12,000 square feet for an adequate facility) limits the layout and types of services that can be provided in the space. Additional space for more shelving to house an expanded collection, more computers, meeting, programming, and study spaces, and to offer important services such as literacy is not available.

### Functional spatial relationships

The existing facility is approximately twenty feet wide by forty-five feet long. All public and administrative services are confined to this one small area with little or no separation between service components. The building's small size limits the layout of the spaces and eliminates the ability to create private areas for confidential transactions, and noise controlled areas for residents who want a quiet reading space.

### Site

The current site is located on an arterial street in the downtown area. The site does not provide visibility from the main thoroughfares, which lead in and out of the city. There is no dedicated parking for the library and no area to offer outdoor activities, a valued community need. The drainage around the building is not adequate to prevent water from collecting adjacent to the building. The rear door has a small landing that is lower than the surrounding grassed area and allows water to enter under the rear door.

### Other Considerations

Electrical and telecommunications systems in the building are inadequate for the extensive use of computer equipment now necessary library service delivery. The building's small size and poor infrastructure limits the library's ability to provide additional computers, photocopy and audiovisual services to meet community demand. In the summer, power is inadequate to operate the two coolers, the computers, the fan and the copy machine simultaneously which, cause disruptions in service.

## 9. Space Needs Assessment

The Fresno County Library, which consists of a Central library, 33 branch libraries, and 3 mobile units, provides services to a county population of 799,407 that is distributed over 6,017 square miles of urban, rural and mountainous regions. Like many public agencies, library facilities are most economical when they serve more densely populated areas due to economies of scale. However, the rural nature of a substantial portion of the county and the lack of public transportation in rural areas makes smaller facilities in outlying communities essential. The goal of the Fresno County Library is to provide equitable, balanced service countywide. Equality and balance is achieved through a tiered approach to library service delivery based primarily on size of the library service area population. Each library within the county system has a designation within the tiered structure, which includes a Central library, regional libraries, branch libraries, metropolitan and rural neighborhood libraries, library stations and mobile service units. These designations dictate the building blocks for service, including size of the facility, size and type of collections, electronic services, library seating and special purpose spaces, staffing levels and hours of service.

In a series of 16 public forums held from October 2002 through January 2003, John Kallenberg, County Librarian, and Karen Bosch Cobb, Associate County Librarian explained to Fresno County residents the design process for new libraries. Libraries are designed from the inside out with an emphasis on services first. Interior and exterior architecture is based on those service needs. Part of that process as well is to create a design that pleases the community. Kallenberg reported to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors on February 25, 2003, that “the response at public forums and from the communities indicates that customers are pleased with the design of all of the new libraries.” The building blocks for service used as standards for planning Fresno County libraries incorporate population projections, collection standards, meeting room capacity and size, conference rooms, computer lab size and personal computers available. Other building blocks set standards for the number of readers’ seats, number of study carrels, number of four-place tables, and lounge seats. Staffing building blocks also establish the space designated for delivery, staffing levels and assigned space for staff, adjunct services, number and size of service desks, and staff lockers.

Findings of the *Mendota Neighborhood Library Needs Assessment* and the *Mendota Neighborhood Library Plan of Service* prepared by Fresno County Library staff recommend an overall library building of 12,635 to accommodate services identified during the needs assessment. This building size is based on the Fresno County service standards and the building blocks for service delivery set forth in the Library Facilities Development Plan, *The Heart of a Community: Its Public Library –Meeting Library Needs for Fresno County Residents 2002-2020*, adopted by Fresno County Board of Supervisors on February 25, 2003.

The population of the Mendota Library Service Area is currently 9,712 and is projected to reach 20,000 by the year 2020. Using Fresno County Library’s service standards, a building of at least 12,100 square feet is required to meet long-term needs of the service area population. During the needs assessment process the Mendota community proposed additional space for special services, including literacy and photocopy services. Fresno County Library is planning for the future and is exploring a variety of systems to optimize the handling, processing and security of library materials. Additional space has been added to the delivery and receiving area of the library, in anticipation of incorporating Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) or a similar sorting system. To accommodate special services and RFID technology, the new Mendota Library will be 12,635 square feet. A building of this size will allow the Mendota Library to move from the 960 square foot facility it has occupied for 47 years, to a large, modern facility designed to meet immediate and future needs of community residents.

Service needs that will be met in the new Mendota Library include expanded collections; special collections (i.e. Spanish language); more computers and electronic resources; literacy and homework tutoring services; designated spaces for children, young adults, quiet reading, study, meetings and events; and separate staff work areas.

The following are explanations of space needs and allocations for the new Mendota Library and how they were determined. This data is based on the information gathered during the Mendota Library Needs Assessment and is reflected in Mendota Library Plan of Service.

### Library Collections

The Mendota Library is currently designated as a “Rural Neighborhood” library within the county library’s tiered structure based on the current service area population of less than 10,000. The library is planning the Mendota facility to meet the needs of a projected population of 20,000 by the year 2020. Anticipated population growth and increase in usage will move the Mendota Library to the “Branch” designation in the future. The new building has been designed for expansion to meet future needs.

The current collection of 9,563 items serves a total population of 9,712 representing less than 1 item per capita. The Fresno County Library collection standard for rural libraries is 2.3 items per capita and 1.3 items in metropolitan areas based on its building blocks for services. The number is lower for the metropolitan area because there are more libraries available, transportation is readily available and collections tend to be larger to serve a larger population. A higher per capita is needed in rural areas to insure collections of adequate size and depth throughout the county are available to residents with less access to public transportation.

Although expenditures on the Mendota collection has almost tripled since passage of Measure B in 1998, continued growth is severely limited by size and shelf capacity of the current facility. During fiscal year 2001-2002, circulation of library materials in Mendota increased 17% overall from the previous fiscal year. In-house use of library materials increased 655% from the previous year. The non-fiction collections are well used by students to support homework and study needs. Mendota circulation data for fiscal year 2001/2002 presented in section 7 b of the *Library Needs Assessment*, illustrates the high demand for library materials, and the key collection areas in greatest demand by residents. Collection growth to meet the immediate and future needs of Mendota residents cannot be achieved in the current facility. The proposed 12,635 square foot building will house a maximum collection of 46,000 items to serve the projected population of 20,000. It is anticipated that the actual collection size will fluctuate as materials are weeded and new items are introduced.

The Fresno County library provides a well balanced, broad range of materials to meet the needs of the service area population. Such factors as community demographics, locale, and availability of services in the community are considered during the selection process. The Mendota Library collection will be developed using Fresno County Public Library’s Material Selection Policy which outlines the selection criteria for the various library service divisions including Adult, Young Adult, California and Local History, Children’s, Government Documents, Multimedia, and Reference collections.

All materials purchased must meet certain criteria described below:

General Criteria:

- Insight into human and social conditions
- Suitability of subject and style for intended audiences
- Present and potential relevance to community needs and interests
- Contemporary significance or permanent value
- Relation to existing collection
- Attention of critics, reviewers and public
- Scarcity of information in subject area
- Availability of material elsewhere in the community (access through San Joaquin Valley Library shared database and interlibrary loan)
- Price and format

Specific criteria for evaluation of information resources (non-fiction):

- Authority
- Comprehensiveness and depth of treatment
- Clarity, accuracy and logic of presentation

Specific criteria for evaluation of works of imagination:

- Representation of significant literary or social trends
- Vitality and originality
- Artistic presentation and experimentation
- Authenticity of historical, regional, or social setting

Responsibility for initial selection of all adult, young adult and children's materials rest with professional staff and implemented through centralized selection teams for each age category. All professional staff is encouraged to participate in the selection process as a selector or rotating team member. Input from all library staff and the public is encouraged and seriously considered when making purchase decisions.

An opening day materials budget will be provided for the Mendota Library with the goal of adding approximately 6,400 new items to the present collection before moving to the new library facility. Continued growth of the collection is planned at an annual rate of 3-5%. High demand items will be added continuously as changing needs are identified. The collection will be thoroughly evaluated and weeded according to authoritative methods such as Continuous Review Evaluation and Weeding (CREW) developed by Joseph P. Segal, before the collection is moved.

The library collection chart below presents a summary of all projected collections to be housed in the new Mendota Library. The summary was extracted from the *Fresno County Library Building Program, Mendota Neighborhood Library, Chapter V General Requirements of the Library Building*, section B, *Type and Size of Collection Library Stack Area*.

### Allocation of the Library's Book Collection

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>Subcategory</b>	<b>Percent of</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Percent in</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Volume</b>
	<b>Volume Type</b>	<b>Collection</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Circulation</b>	<b>Volumes on Shelf</b>	<b>Linear Feet</b>
<b>Adult/Young Adult</b>		<b>49.40%</b>	<b>18,600</b>	<b>19.11%</b>	<b>15,045</b>	<b>10.42</b>
	<b>Browsing</b>					
	New Books	0.53%	200	50.00%	100	8
	New Books (Face Out)	0.27%	100	50.00%	50	1
	<b>Fiction</b>					
	Fiction	4.65%	1,750	20.00%	1,400	8
	Paperbacks	2.66%	1,000	30.00%	700	16
	<b>Large Print</b>					
	Large Print	0.53%	200	5.00%	190	8
	<b>Literacy</b>					
	Literacy	2.26%	850	0.00%	850	24
	Literacy Reference	0.13%	50	0.00%	50	12
	Literacy Self Instruction	0.27%	100	40.00%	60	10
	<b>Local History</b>					
	Local History	0.27%	100	5.00%	95	8
	<b>Non-Fiction</b>					
	Non-Fiction	5.31%	2,000	15.00%	1,700	8
	<b>Ready Reference</b>					
	Ready Reference	0.13%	50	0.00%	50	6
	<b>Reference</b>					
	Reference	4.65%	1,750	0.00%	1,750	6
	Reference (Encyclopedias, Directories, Etc.)	0.53%	200	0.00%	200	6
	<b>Spanish Language</b>					
	Spanish Language Fiction	6.64%	2,500	30.00%	1,750	17
	Spanish Language Non-Fiction	11.95%	4,500	15.00%	3,825	8
	<b>Young Adult</b>					
	Young Adult	1.99%	750	30.00%	525	12
	Young Adult Fiction	0.66%	250	30.00%	175	13
	Young Adult Non-Fiction	3.32%	1,250	30.00%	875	11
	Young Adult Paperbacks	2.66%	1,000	30.00%	700	16
	<b>Children/Juvenile</b>	<b>50.60%</b>	<b>19,050</b>	<b>26.05%</b>	<b>14,088</b>	<b>17</b>
	<b>Children's Easy Readers</b>					
	Children's Easy Readers	1.99%	750	25.00%	563	20
	<b>Children's Picture Books</b>					
	Children's Picture Books	7.97%	3,000	35.00%	1,950	20
	Children's Spanish Language Picture Books	5.31%	2,000	45.00%	1,100	33
	<b>Children's Ready Reference</b>					
	Children's Ready Reference	0.27%	100	0.00%	100	8
	<b>Children's Reference</b>					

<b>CATEGORY</b>					
<b>Subcategory</b>	<b>Percent of</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Percent in</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Volume</b>
<b>Volume Type</b>	<b>Collection</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Circulation</b>	<b>Volumes</b>	<b>Linear</b>
				<b>on Shelf</b>	<b>Feet</b>
Children's Reference	2.66%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	8
<b>Children's Spanish Language</b>					
Children's Spanish Language	1.33%	500	25.00%	375	20
<b>Homework</b>					
Homework	1.33%	500	10.00%	450	8
<b>Juvenile Fiction</b>					
Juvenile Fiction	7.97%	3,000	30.00%	2,100	13
<b>Juvenile Non-Fiction</b>					
Juvenile Non-Fiction	13.28%	5,000	25.00%	3,750	13
<b>Juvenile Spanish Language</b>					
Juvenile Spanish Language	5.31%	2,000	25.00%	1,500	20
Juvenile Spanish Language Non-Fiction	3.19%	1,200	0.00%	1,200	24
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>37,650</b>	<b>22.62%</b>	<b>29,133</b>	<b>12.83</b>

#### ALLOCATION OF THE LIBRARY'S MULTIMEDIA COLLECTION

<b>CATEGORY</b>					
<b>Subcategory</b>	<b>Percent of</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Percent in</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Volume</b>
<b>Volume Type</b>	<b>Collection</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Circulation</b>	<b>Volumes</b>	<b>Linear</b>
				<b>on Shelf</b>	<b>Feet</b>
<b>Adult/Young Adult</b>	<b>39.39%</b>	<b>3,250</b>	<b>22.31%</b>	<b>2,525</b>	<b>16.42</b>
<b>Audio Book Cassette</b>					
Audio Book Cassette	9.09%	750	30.00%	525	10
<b>Audio Book Compact Disc</b>					
Audio Book CD (CD ROM)	1.21%	100	30.00%	70	25
<b>Audio Compact Disc (CD)</b>					
Audio Compact Disc (CD)	13.33%	1,100	30.00%	770	25
<b>DVD</b>					
DVD	1.21%	100	20.00%	80	25
<b>Spanish Language</b>					
Spanish Language	3.03%	250	0.00%	250	8
Video Cassette, Spanish	7.88%	650	0.00%	650	12
<b>Video Cassette</b>					
Video Cassette	3.64%	300	40.00%	180	10
<b>Children/Juvenile</b>	<b>60.61%</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>36.50%</b>	<b>3,175</b>	<b>19.42</b>
<b>Audio Cassette</b>					
Audio Cassette	3.03%	250	40.00%	150	19
<b>Audio Compact Disc (CD)</b>					
Audio Compact Disc (CD)	9.09%	750	40.00%	450	25
<b>CD-ROM</b>					
CD-ROM	0.01%	1	20.00%	1	25
<b>Children's Spanish Language</b>					
Video Cassette, Spanish	9.09%	750	40.00%	450	12
<b>DVD</b>					
DVD	3.02%	249	20.00%	199	25
<b>Media Kits</b>					
Media Kit (Audio Cassette W/ Book)	15.15%	1,250	30.00%	875	20
<b>Video Cassette</b>					
Video Cassette	21.21%	1,750	40.00%	1,050	10

<b>CATEGORY</b>					
<b>Subcategory</b>	<b>Percent of</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Percent in</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Volume</b>
<b>Volume Type</b>	<b>Collection</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Circulation</b>	<b>Volumes</b>	<b>Linear</b>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>8,250</b>	<b>30.91%</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>17.92</b>

#### ALLOCATION OF THE LIBRARY'S PERIODICAL COLLECTION

<b>Adult/Young Adult</b>	76.00%	76	0.00%	76	1
<b>Back Issue Magazines</b>					
Back Issue Magazines	30.00%	30	0.00%	30	1
<b>Current Magazines</b>					
Current Magazines	12.00%	12	0.00%	12	1
Current Spanish Language Magazines	20.00%	20	0.00%	20	1
<b>Current Newspapers</b>					
Current Newspapers	2.00%	2	0.00%	2	1
Current Spanish Language Newspapers	4.00%	4	0.00%	4	1
<b>Young Adult Current</b>					
Young Adult Current Magazines	8.00%	8	0.00%	8	1
<b>Children/Juvenile</b>	<b>24.00%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Children's Back Issue</b>					
Children's Back Issue Magazines	10.00%	10	0.00%	10	1
<b>Children's Current Magazines</b>					
Children's Current Magazines	8.00%	8	0.00%	8	1
Children's Current Spanish Language Magazines	6.00%	6	0.00%	6	1
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>100</b>	

Calculations and conversion factors used to translate each collection subcategory into space needs are presented in the Mendota Library building program *Chapter V General Requirements for the Library Building*, section B, *Type and Size of Collection Library Stack Area*, pages 22-25. This is a Libris Design (Version 2.2) program.

#### Readers' Seats

Fresno County Library standards for readers' seating are as follows:

- Individual study carrels, 35 square feet per person. These carrels may or may not be wired for laptops. Carrels are larger than in the past to accommodate electronic equipment in addition to other study material.
- Four place tables for individuals or groups, 150 square feet per table. These may or may not be wired for laptops.
- Seating at computers.
- Comfortable lounge chairs, 35 square feet per person
- Meeting and Conference Rooms, 15 square feet per person. Meeting room and conference spaces are heavily used. Some kind of meeting space is included for each library. Meeting and conference room spaces have been designed to meet needs of Mendota residents.
- Library Programming Space, 13 square feet per person. In Fresno County Library specific goals are set by type of library for the kind of library programs to be offered for children, teens and adults. Some of the programs are appropriately given in meeting rooms; others are given in spaces designed specifically for that purpose such as Children's programming area. Due to high usage by children and the needs expressed by the community, a Children's programming area has been included in the new Mendota Library.



Readers' seating standards have been interpreted below for the projected Mendota service area population of 20,000. Based on conversations with the community, the meeting room capacity was changed from 100 people to 60 with a patio to accommodate an overflow crowd for a large event.

Meeting Room (capacity)	60	Conference Room	6
Computer Lab	11	Tutoring Room	2
Public Computer Station	5	A/V Viewing	4
Study Carrels	3	Four place Tables	4
Lounge Seats	8	Children's Programming area (capacity)	25

Seating for the public will include a variety of types from the traditional straight hardwood chairs to ergonomic work chairs, bench seating and comfortable lounge seating. The number, type and allocation of patron seating for each area of the library is included in the *Fresno County Library Building Program, Mendota Neighborhood Library, Chapter V. General Requirements of the Library Building*, section O Master list of Furniture and Equipment pages 36-44. A detailed description of readers' seats allocated for each designated area of the library can be accessed in *Chapter VIII, Space Descriptions* of the Mendota Library Building Program, pages 51-160. Sections in Chapter VIII entitled "Occupancy" and "Description of Furniture & Equipment Units" provide summary information.

In the Mendota Library project the library used Libris Design (Version 2.2) for actual allocations and conversions.

### Technology

Fresno County Library standards for technology are detailed in *The Heart of a Community; It's Public Library* and include:

- Electronic Card Catalog for all public libraries in the six counties from Mariposa County to Kern with access to catalogs throughout California and the world. These computer catalogs are of two types: standup for quick look up and sit down for extended study.
- World Wide Web access for extensive database access, including millions of magazine articles, national and international newspapers, encyclopedias, and much more at each library location.
- Homework Centers at some locations for students and adults to prepare homework, reports, resumes, etc.
- Copy and Fax machine services.
- Computers and equipment to meet the needs of persons with sight or hearing loss. Examples include scanning devices, large screen computers, talking computers.
- Radio Frequency Identification technology (RFID) or a similar sorting system for the efficient processing of library materials. Additional space has been added to the delivery and receiving area of the library, in anticipation of incorporating Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) or a similar sorting system.

These standards are a general guideline and studied with each community as a part of the needs assessment. This refinement is critical to deliver services needed in each community. For example, rural communities have less access to copy and fax centers than metropolitan area libraries. Public access to the latest computer technology to assist residents with skill development and continuing education was identified as a critical community need.

The Mendota Unified School District expressed a strong need for students to have extended access to support the formal learning, homework, and co-circular needs of students and families. The public library is the only access point for computer technology available to most adults in the community.

The technology requirements to support the proposed services are described in the Library Plan of Service for the Mendota Neighborhood Library. These specific requirements were then incorporated into the final building program document. A full listing of technology equipment is available in the *Fresno County Library Building Program, Mendota Neighborhood Library, Chapter V. General Requirements of the Library Building*, section 0, Master list of Furniture and Equipment, pages 36-44. A detailed description of technology equipment for each designated area of the library and the central telecommunications equipment can be accessed in *Chapter VIII, Space Descriptions* of the Mendota Library building program, pages 51-160. Sections in Chapter VIII entitled "Occupancy" and "Description of Furniture & Equipment Units" provide summary information.

Calculations and conversion factors used to translate technology equipment into space needs are from Libris Design (Version 2.2).

#### Staff Offices and Workstations

Fresno County Library standards for individual workspace is calculated based on the work assignment of the person and discussed in *The Heart of a Community: Its Public Library Meeting Library Needs for Fresno county Residents: 2002-2020*, pages 12-16. Internal meetings with Literacy staff identified office and workstation requirements for Families for Literacy and Literacy Outreach services resulting in a total of 6 workstations for staff. The projected staffing plan and organization is described in the Library Plan of Service, Mendota Neighborhood Library. The projected office space and number of workstations in the building program meet or exceed requirements for a staff of 3.5 full time equivalent library employees and additional support staff who will be involved in service implementation as specified in the Library Plan of Service. The proposed FTE staffing level for the Mendota Neighborhood Library is consistent with the number of staff in similar sized branch libraries in Fresno County. The number of support staff is consistent with the implementation of similar programs and services offered at other Fresno County Library facilities. The library is currently undergoing a staffing audit to determine specific staffing levels relative to workload measures. These workload measures include circulation counts, in-house use of library materials, readers' aid transactions (RATs), computer use sessions and troubleshooting, and complexity of service. The staff audit is scheduled for completion in 2003 and will help to identify the need for staffing augmentation at the Mendota Library.

A listing of staff workstations is available in the *Fresno County Library Building Program, Mendota Neighborhood Library, Chapter V. General Requirements of the Library Building*, section 0, Master list of Furniture and Equipment, pages 36-44. A detailed description of staff office and workstation requirements are included in Chapter VIII, *Space Descriptions*, sections B, D, J N Q. & I pages 51-160.

Calculations and conversions are from Libris Design (Version 2.2).

## Meeting Room Requirements

Meeting room and conference spaces are heavily used. Some kind of meeting space (either in conference room or a meeting room) is included in each library. Fresno County Library meeting room space is calculated at 15 square feet per person. This standard has been interpreted for the projected Mendota service area population of 20,000 by the year 2020 as identified during the community needs assessment. Meeting rooms in the new library and occupant capacity include a large meeting room that will seat 60, conference room for 6, a tutoring room to seat 4, and literacy area that will seat 2 patrons and 1 staff. The standard for a large meeting room to serve a population of 20,000 is 100 people. However, based on conversations with the community, the meeting room capacity was changed from 100 people to 60 with a patio to accommodate an overflow crowd for a large event.

Meeting room space is an integral part of the Library Plan of Service for the Mendota Neighborhood Library. A large meeting room will serve as a multi-purpose space for meetings of community organizations, programs, cultural and recreational events, informational forums, workshops and continuing education, and use by other human service providers. The room will accommodate seating for 60. A patio adjacent to the meeting room will extend the space and lend itself to outdoor activities. The kitchenette adjacency will enable the community to provide light refreshments at events. A conference and a tutoring room will be available for one-on-one or small group tutoring and study. In addition, an ESL/Families for Literacy office area will provide learners and literacy staff with a meeting space away from high traffic areas.

Videoconferencing and presentation systems will be installed in the Meeting Room of the new Mendota Library to facilitate remote and interactive seminars, workshops and conferences. Equipment may include but is not limited to, a video monitor, sound system, lap top computer on a wireless network, LCD projector, VCR/DVD, along with telecommunication support for the appropriate videoconferencing platform. The tutoring and study rooms will also be equipped with multimedia presentation tools to facilitate self-guided or assisted learning.

Type and allocation of patron seating for each meeting room area of the library is included in the *Fresno County Library Building Program, Mendota Neighborhood Library, Chapter V. General Requirements of the Library Building*, section O, pages 36-44. Master list of Furniture and Equipment. A detailed description of meeting room requirements can be accessed in *Chapter VIII, Space Descriptions of the Mendota Library Building Program*, section J pages 122-133 and section L pages 140-145.

The calculations and conversion factors used to determine the amount of meeting room assignable footage and resulting seating are from Libris Design (Version 2.2).

### Special purpose

Fresno County Library building blocks for services model identifies the need to provide special purpose areas that complement traditional public library offerings as appropriate for each community. Many organizations and businesses offer products and services that complement a public library's offering. Examples include copy and print service, Friends of the Library gift shop and used bookstore, and computer center. Such partnerships with organizations and businesses meet the needs of users by providing products and services when and where they are most convenient. An additional amount of square footage is provided to accommodate these ancillary services. Special purpose needs that were identified during the Mendota needs assessment include literacy/homework tutoring and resource area, computer center for access to electronic resources, Children's programming area for story presentations and early literacy activities, a copy center that will provide Fax, and postal services and a quiet reading room for browsing library materials.

Residents also requested outdoor commons or gathering areas where residents could interact socially or wait for scheduled appointments with other service providers. The services that will be provided in special purpose areas are fully described in the Library Plan of Service, Mendota Neighborhood Library.

A detailed description of special purpose areas is included in *Fresno County Library Building Program, Chapter IV. Exterior Considerations*, sections A-B, page 14 and Chapter VIII, *Space Descriptions*, sections D, E, F, J, & O, pages 51-160.

Calculations and conversions are from Libris Design (Version 2.2).

### Non-Assignable Space

The Fresno County Library uses 25% of the total building size as its standard for non-assigned or undesignated spaces including electrical, data and telephone room, terminal servers, corridors, restrooms, lobbies, stairwells, mechanical and equipment rooms, and custodial closets as applicable for each library. The total non-assignable square footage for the Mendota Library is 3,104 (program) and 3,038 (actual). The building's gross square footage is 12,417 (program) and 12,635 (actual).

## Resources

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